

Submitter: Jessica Goetz
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1570
Jessica Goetz

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RE: Testimony in Support of SB 1570-1

To the Senate Health Care Committee:

As a postpartum doula and home health care worker, I witness firsthand how fear — especially fear rooted in immigration enforcement — can harm families, disrupt care, and prevent people from getting the medical support they need. That's why I strongly believe Oregon must pass Senate Bill 1570, the "Healthcare Without Fear Act." SB 1570 would make it clear that no one in Oregon should be afraid to seek medical care — no matter their immigration status or background. This bill helps protect the basic human rights of our most vulnerable community members and strengthens the bonds of trust between patients and caregivers.

Here's why this legislation matters:

Ensure healthcare is a place for healing not fear:

Immigrant families already face enormous stress, uncertainty, and barriers to care. When federal immigration enforcement agents show up in hospitals and clinics without clear limits, it creates a climate of fear that discourages people from accessing essential medical services — including prenatal care, postpartum visits, chronic disease management, and urgent treatment for children. SB 1570 would restrict immigration enforcement in patient care areas unless agents have a valid judicial warrant, so care can proceed without intimidation or interruption.

Protects Privacy and Trust:

Healthcare should be a confidential and safe space. SB 1570 would classify immigration status and place of birth as protected health information, strengthening privacy standards and giving families greater assurance that sensitive information stays within the medical setting.

Supports Health Care Workers to Do Their Jobs:

As a caregiver, I want to focus on supporting families — not navigating the presence of law enforcement in clinical settings. This bill requires health care facilities to adopt clear policies and designate staff trained to interact with federal agents, instead of leaving that responsibility to frontline workers under pressure. It also protects workers

from retaliation for providing patients with accurate legal and constitutional information.

Upholds Dignity and Equity for Every Family:

Healthcare without fear is fundamentally about human dignity. Families — whether recently arrived, undocumented, or mixed-status — should be able to get care when they need it most. Fear of enforcement should never stand between a parent and lifesaving treatment for their child, or a postpartum person and the care that ensures their recovery and long-term health.

By passing SB 1570, Oregon can send a strong message: Health care is a human right and a place of compassion — not a venue for fear or separation. This legislation aligns with our values as caregivers, neighbors, and community members who want all families to thrive safely and without fear.

Thank you for considering this testimony and I look forward to your support.

Jessica Goetz