

Submitter: Lauren Noll
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1570

Lauren Noll, MD
2/6/2025
RE: Testimony in Support of SB 1570-1

To the Senate Health Care Committee:

I am a physician writing in strong support of SB 1570-1, the Healthcare Without Fear Act.

Hospitals must be places where patients can seek and receive care without fear or interference. Increasingly, the presence of federal immigration officers in healthcare settings has disrupted clinical care and compromised patient privacy. I have seen how fear of enforcement leads patients to delay or avoid care, resulting in worse health outcomes and higher long-term costs to the healthcare system.

SB 1570-1 provides clear, necessary guidance by requiring hospitals to define patient care areas where immigration enforcement is not permitted without a valid judicial warrant and to designate trained supervisory staff to interface with federal officers. This clarity protects patient privacy and allows clinicians to focus on providing medically appropriate care.

The bill also establishes critical protections for healthcare workers who share accurate know-your-rights information related to constitutional or immigration law or access to legal and navigation services. Physicians and caregivers should not face retaliation for supporting patient safety and informed decision-making.

Improper federal officer presence should never compromise clinical judgment or the confidentiality essential to effective care. SB 1570-1 appropriately strengthens hospital standards through licensure oversight while respecting the limits of state authority.

I urge the Committee to support SB 1570-1.

Thank you for your consideration.

Lauren Noll, MD