

Submitter: Ray Anthony  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1570

RE: Testimony in Support of SB 1570-1

To the Senate Health Care Committee:

SB 1570, and the healthcare without fear is a fundamental human right. I support this bill from a personal and professional standpoint. What we know in the history of the United States is that the concept of freedom has not been freely given. Growing up, I learned from a young age that if someone was not considered a citizen, or does not have permanent legal residence, they lived in fear. Fear that kept us from connecting with our community, and that kept people from going to the hospital. This fear was stemmed from possibility of deportation from ICE, and also from discrimination from local authorities. Imagine knowing that fear at a young age, it alters all your relationships. With increased fear the immigrant community will not seek support, and more importantly will not seek medical care.

While deportations are not new, this new political regime has created increased fear in our immigrant communities. The US has a long standing history of supporting oppressive regimes in other countries, then taking no accountability for directly contributing to destabilizing their economies. The current blueprint that ICE uses is to systematically tear apart families and use fear and propaganda to create an image that the immigrant is a criminal. I have seen firsthand this rhetoric being used in our healthcare facilities. As a nurse and a resident of Oregon I want to express how deeply troubling it is to see this affect our immigrant community. Even more disturbing is seeing ICE terrorizing health facilities which should be places of healing, shackling patients that have no violent criminal history, dictating care, or watching neighbors and family hide because other community members (immigrants) who have not committed any crimes have been snatched and deported without a due process. Nurses are in fear for our patients and our coworkers. SB 1570 will add protections that we shouldn't need. But in this current political climate we need to push back as a community, it is our duty. Fear is the antithesis of freedom- a fundamental principal of this country. If we do not strengthen protections for all our communities by supporting SB 1570 we will only see increased fear and the erosion of freedom.

Thank you for your work to support all our community members