

Submitter: Anonymous

2/6/2026

Re: Testimony in Support of SB 1570

To the Senate and Health Care Committee:

It is with a heavy heart that I write this letter of support for SB1570, a bill that would ensure safer practices for all patients by reminding Oregonians that immigrants are not inherently criminals. My heart is heavy because it feels dystopian and surreal that one should have to write a testimony asking for protection that should already be provided and enforced. I am in support of SB1570 because it would make sure 1) patients and caregivers are safely accessing care and 2) that healthcare providers are protected from retaliation or adverse actions for providing a patient with legally sanctioned healthcare.

Families with immigrant or mixed status are missing medical appointments and scared to leave their homes to refill critical medications. They are avoiding hospitalizations because of reasonable fear of having their families violently or fatally disrupted. Healthcare providers receive regular training ensuring compliance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), a law meant to protect sensitive health information. It is antithetical to basic medical rights to confidentiality when receiving healthcare that ICE should be allowed to be in a room during conversations involving personal health information. Healthcare providers should not be afraid to ask ICE to leave to perform a medical exam.

Currently, it appears that the government is indirectly and directly contributing to children and families' lack of access to healthcare. This is unacceptable. The lives of our children are in your hands. This is not a dramatic statement, this is what I witness. It is with utmost appreciation that I ask you support SB1570 in the 2026 short session and ask for your leadership in protecting patients' and caregivers' rights to healthcare across Oregon.

Sincerely,

Fearful Oregonian