

Submitter: Nichelle Duncans
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1570

To the Senate Health Care Committee:

Everyone deserves access to healthcare without fear. My close family friend recently told me that she and her family were afraid to attend a community fair due to the presence of ICE in the community. I can't imagine the fear of being unable to participate in a community they have contributed so much to because of that fear. The anecdote I shared was related to a leisure activity. Now imagine having that same fear, but having to choose between seeking medical support or protecting yourself or your family from being targeted by federal agents.

We must hold federal agents to the same standard as state and local law enforcement. We need real accountability, and we need to be able to protect our patients and uphold legal and ethical standards of care. Patients have the right to privacy and the right to meaningful and safe care. This bill ensures hospitals remain a place of healing, and it allows practitioners to focus on their real work of providing compassionate care. There should not be a threat of detention or deportation as a result of seeking medical care.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment and I look forward to your support.

Nichelle Duncans