

Submitter: Liz K

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1570

I am a resident of Portland, Oregon and I am writing today to testify in support of SB 1570.

To put it simply, we need the protections provided in this bill because we cannot count on hospital administrators to provide these protections for us on their own accord. If hospital administrators cared about patient safety, for example, then we wouldn't need safe staffing laws. But we do. History has shown us that we need laws to protect us from the selfish tendencies of business owners who hold all the power and very little accountability.

I ask the Senate Committee On Health Care to listen to the words of bedside healthcare workers and not water down the protections of this bill. I ask you to look into the reasons why SB 1570 was introduced. You don't have to go far to see news reports and court cases showing ICE agent's blatant disregard for law and constitutional rights. This lawlessness from ICE agents extends to Oregon hospitals and impacts the safety of both patients and staff. Hospital administrators have been looking the other way as ICE agents in hospitals violate HIPAA, threaten staff, and endanger the patients in their custody. Hospital management at Legacy Emanuel specifically has been retaliating against staff who express their concerns and try to advocate for the rights of their patient or provide information on their rights.

Please listen to the whistleblowers and listen to the unions who represent them. Please help support us in protecting our patients when hospital administrators will not. Please don't water down this bill. If anything it needs more protections added, not reduced. Thank you for the work you are doing, and thank you to Senator Campos, Representative Grayber, Ruiz, Senator Broadman, Gelser Blouin, Patterson, Reynolds, Representative Chaichi, and Rieke Smith for sponsoring this very important bill.