

Submitter: Kameryn Fraser
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1570
Kameryn 02/06/26

RE: Testimony in Support of SB 1570-1

To the Senate Health Care Committee:

As an ICU nurse currently pursuing my doctorate in nursing practice, I have stood at the bedside of Oregon's most vulnerable patients during their most critical moments. I am writing to strongly urge your support for SB 1570-1. My clinical experience and doctoral research both lead to the same conclusion: healthcare cannot be effective if it is built on a foundation of fear.

In our ICUs and emergency departments, we see the tangible consequences of delayed care. When immigrants in our community avoid seeking treatment for themselves or their children due to fear of enforcement, they often arrive in our units only after a manageable condition has spiraled into a life-threatening crisis. This doesn't just put lives at risk; it increases the caretaking burden on families and places an unnecessary strain on our entire healthcare system.

I am currently in school full time, however, it is deeply distressing to hear from co-workers that ICE agents wander hospital halls or remain in private exam rooms after nurses have explicitly asserted that patient-privacy standards mandate their departure. When federal agents trample over the guidance of nurses and physicians, they compromise the high clinical standards we are sworn to uphold.

SB 1570-1 is essential for the following reasons:

Protecting Patient Privacy: Hospitals and federally qualified health centers must be trusted sanctuaries. No patient should have to weigh the risk of deportation against the need for life-saving medical intervention.

Reinforcing Clinical Authority: We need statewide direction that empowers hospitals to reinforce privacy boundaries, ensuring that federal presence never compromises provider-advised care.

Whistleblower & Caregiver Protections: It is vital that caregivers have explicit protections against retaliation when they share accurate "know-your-rights" information or legal navigation services. We should never be penalized for providing

patients with the tools they need to advocate for their constitutional rights.

Oregon should follow the lead of states like California, which passed similar measures (SB 81) to ensure that healthcare remains a human right, not a trap. We have the opportunity to make Oregon a state where all people, regardless of immigration status, can receive care without the shadow of isolation or fear.

Thank you for considering this testimony and I look forward to your support.