

Submitter:

Christina Shew

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB1570

SB 1570-1 is a practical, carefully scoped policy that helps ensure Oregon hospitals and federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) remain places where people can seek care without fear while still respecting lawful process. The amendment does this by setting clear rules for how facilities respond when federal immigration authorities appear, especially regarding access to nonpublic areas and requests for sensitive information, unless disclosure is required by law or pursuant to a court order.

Why SB 1570-1 matters:

1) It protects access to care and public health.

When people fear immigration enforcement in healthcare settings, they delay or avoid care which leads to worse health outcomes and higher downstream costs. SB 1570-1 helps restore trust that hospitals and FQHCs are places for treatment first and foremost.

2) It provides clear, workable protocols for staff.

Frontline staff should not have to make high-stakes legal judgments in the moment. SB 1570-1 requires facilities to adopt written policies, designate an administrator, and establish procedures for verifying credentials, reviewing warrants or court orders, documenting the visit, and consulting legal counsel when feasible. This reduces confusion, inconsistent responses, and unnecessary conflict.

3) It strengthens privacy protections in a targeted way.

SB 1570-1 treats citizenship and immigration status as protected health information in this context and limits disclosures unless required by law or supported by a court order. That is a reasonable standard: if information is truly needed for enforcement, it should be obtained through judicial oversight, not informal pressure on staff or opportunistic requests.

4) It protects workers who help patients understand their rights.

The amendment's anti-retaliation provisions ensure that staff can share rights and legal-services information without fear of employer discipline. This supports informed patients and reduces the likelihood of coercion or misunderstanding during stressful encounters.

SB 1570-1 does not attempt to block lawful federal action. It preserves compliance with valid legal requirements and court orders. What it does is ensure that access to nonpublic healthcare spaces and sensitive personal information is governed by clear

rules and due process, rather than uncertainty or intimidation.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to vote YES on SB 1570-1 and move it forward. Thank you for your time and for your commitment to protecting both healthcare access and civil rights in Oregon.