

Submitter: Kelly MacLennan

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1570

To the Senate Healthcare Committee:

I am writing this testimony to support SB 1570-1. No human anywhere should ever have to fear for their safety while trying to get healthcare. There are already many roadblocks for people that causes them to delay healthcare, such as cost. I can't imagine having to fear that I would be taken and/or physically harmed by federal immigration agents in the process of trying to get treatment for myself or a loved one. How terrifying.

I am an ICU nurse and have tried to put myself into the position of my fellow emergency department workers who have had to deal with immigration officers interrupting patient care and violating patient privacy. Our jobs as nurses is to protect the patient, always prioritizing their safety, health and privacy. I have been trying to picture myself having to take care of a critically ill patient, where every moment counts to keeping them alive, while also trying to fend off an immigration agent who is attempting to control the care given. I am proud to be a nurse that will stand up for her patient, but due to recent events, it worries me that I can get hurt in the process since agents have acted unnecessarily violent towards people.

Federal immigration agents need to be held accountable, just as everyone else is, in respecting patient's privacy, healthcare treatments and staff. No one should have to fear getting healthcare or going to work.