

Submitter: Kimber Nelson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1570
2/7/2026

RE: Testimony in Support of SB 1570-1

To the Senate Health Care Committee:

As an Oregonian, a nurse, and an employee at a Federally Qualified Health Center, I know everyone deserves access to healthcare without fear. I support SB 1570 because federal officers need to be accountable to the same standards as state and local law enforcement; staff need to have clear, consistent support across the State to respond to the presence of officers, and provide appropriate information to patients about their rights; and all patients deserve privacy and respect while receiving medical care. Currently federal agents from several agencies have been engaging in violence, intimidation, and harassment outside and inside health facilities, so we need to be much clearer that health facilities are places where law and ethics are upheld. While many hospitals and clinics have tried to respond to these problems appropriately, some have made questionable choices, so we need a some basic statewide standards that patients and staff can count on. A unified voice makes our laws and values strongest.

In these first few weeks of 2026, federal agents have chosen to repeatedly act on the campus of Adventist Health Portland. Two immigrants were shot during a traffic stop. A family was detained prior to getting hospital care for their child. And agents spent an afternoon watching and questioning people in the parking lot outside a Federally Qualified Health Center. The pattern of using health facilities as sites for immigration enforcement and for general intimidation of immigrants and people of color is increasingly clear. While this bill might not prevent these particular actions in public spaces outside health facilities, it would provide concrete protections for patients and staff inside health facilities, and send a clear message that in Oregon we expect health facilities to be safe places like they used to be.

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

Kimber Nelson, RN