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On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1570

I am a hospital based healthcare worker, and I often work in the Emergency Dept.

We are still the front line.

We see people in all kinds of trouble. We treat people with substance use issues, people who have been in car accidents, people having strokes and heart attacks, people who have fallen down, people who have caught a nasty cootie, people who have put things up their noses and can't get them out. We treat people with maggots in their wounds, lice in their hair, bedbugs in their clothes, and scabies..... We treat gun shot wounds, and elders who have been neglected and abandoned. We treat people who are being brought in from a correctional facility for a higher level of care than there facility can provide.

We are tough. We are resilient. And at the moment, many of us are scared.

It has always been hard job. But until now, it never included being asked to treat people who have been kidnapped off the street by masked federal agents without ID. It never included being told that we could not provide "know your rights" information to patients. It never included wondering whether the "officer" would be willing to leave the room for sensitive procedures like inserting a foley catheter. Law enforcement is in our hospital on a daily basis, but until now, they have not tried to intimidate our doctors, bully our staff, or interfere in the provision of care.

No one should fear for their freedom when seeking medical care, and no one should fear for their safety and the safety of their colleagues when providing it.

Please put clear, enforceable, statewide standards in place so that hospital leadership has a clear directive, and we can hold them accountable to the standards of basic human decency.