

RE: Testimony in Support of SB 1570-1

To the Senate Health Care Committee:

I am writing on behalf of AFT-Oregon. We are a labor federation representing workplace unions across the state in early learning, K-12 schools, and across our state's college and university landscape.

AFT-Oregon supports SB 1570 -1: The Healthcare Without Fear Act and urges its passage

This bill responds to the problem we, in education, are all too familiar with: unaccountable federal-officer behavior in settings that prevent workers from doing their jobs and endangers those we serve. This bill specifically applies to hospitals, and federal-officer actions which challenges safe patient care, access to care, and care consistency.

This bill does several great things:

- Establishing new protections for caregivers against retaliation for providing know-your-rights information
- Puts the responsibility on hospitals to delineate patient care areas where immigration enforcement is not allowed (except with valid judicial warrant), and to designate supervisory staff to be the ones to interface with ICE and assess the validity of warrants
- Increases the protection of patient information, so it is not in the hands of ICE

There are valid and substantiated incidents of ICE agents wandering hospital walls and remaining with patients during private exams, trampling on nurse and physician guidance and best practices. We know that immigrants are delaying care for themselves and their families due to fear, which is a public health concern.

California's legislature approved many of these same measures last year, via SB 81, upon the advocacy of the California Immigrant Policy Center, the Latino Coalition for a Healthy California, unions, and swaths of residents, immigrants and non-immigrants alike.

This is a good piece of legislation that moves us closer to becoming a state where **all** people can receive healthcare, education, social services, and walk outside and live a fulfilling life without fear. Hospitals and federally qualified health centers should be places that all Oregonians, regardless of immigration status and citizenship history, trust are safe to enter.

Sincerely,



Harper Haverkamp, PhD
American Federation of Teachers – Oregon (AFT-Oregon)