

Submitter:

Blaire Glennon

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB1570

My name is Blaire Glennon. I am a registered nurse and most recently worked at Legacy Emanuel Medical Center in Portland. I want to thank everyone for hearing this important piece of legislation, which I support.

Since about late September, ICE and CBP have been bringing detainees to Legacy Emanuel Medical Center after they are injured due to violent detainments and agents have been acting inappropriately inside the hospital.

In late November, I was walking back through the ER after bringing a patient to the ambulance bay to be transferred to another facility. I had been putting 'know your rights' cards or what are also known as 'red cards' in the break rooms of my medical-surgical unit. "Red cards" inform people of their constitutional rights. I had some extra, so I offered them to an ER nurse on my way back through to my unit. She said that 'know your rights information' wasn't allowed anywhere in the ER including breakrooms, so I left and returned to my unit, feeling that it was an odd interaction. Later I was confronted by the house supervisor. She stated that 'know your rights information' was not allowed in the hospital. I asked for her name and the hospital policy she was referring to. She stated it was just what upper management had said and there was no policy she knew of preventing know your rights info in the hospital. I was told in my investigatory meeting that asking her questions was considered threatening behavior.

I was placed on administrative leave. During an investigatory meeting they asked many questions about red cards. In the outcome meeting I was given a final corrective action document, and my hours and position were changed. ICE was mentioned frequently in my final corrective action although the reason for corrective action was supposedly unrelated to ICE. Eventually I quit because I didn't want to be subjected to any more retaliation from Legacy.

As nurses, we care for the whole person and that often includes providing resources to patients. My 'know your rights' cards only had basic constitutional rights information in English and Spanish. Constitutional rights facts are legal information, not legal advice. More importantly though, nurses want to be part of the solution. And we are called by our ethical obligation to support ALL of our patients. Bill 1570 is important legislation to protect nurses from retaliation when we're simply doing our job of protecting our patients. Since we live in a time where the federal agents regularly attempt to break legal rights, this is important. Please support the Healthcare Without Fear Bill, Thank you.