



*Testimony in Support of SB 1570 (2026) - the Healthcare without Fear Act*

Dear Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Hayden and the Senate Committee on Health Care,

My name is Kate Suisman. I am an attorney at the Northwest Workers' Justice Project (NWJP). Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important bill. We represent workers in low-wage jobs when bad things happen to them at work: when they are not paid, or are discriminated against for being in a protected class or are retaliated against for speaking up. Finally, we engage in policy advocacy and try to bring the important perspectives of workers in low-wage jobs and immigrant workers to these policy discussions.

So much has changed in our communities since January 2025 when the current Administration took over. Basic principles we relied on, like respecting our constitution and following established norms of civil society, have been disregarded. During the first Administration of the current president, these basic principles were at least minimally respected- such as the long-held policy to keep immigration enforcement away from sensitive locations- churches, hospitals, schools, courts. That era of common sense immigration enforcement is clearly over, as we have seen with detentions at civil immigration proceedings and in front of elementary schools, and shootings of parents trying to get [emergency health care](#) for their children.

We have also heard reports of immigration enforcement officers roaming the halls of hospitals in our state. The deterrent effect this has on Oregonians needing medical attention is clear. As a state, we need to do all we can to delineate between potentially lawful immigration enforcement and the lawless marauding by untrained agents that is going on throughout the state.

This bill aims to bring accountability to this process. It will require that hospitals do what so many other Oregon businesses have done, and clearly demarcate the private areas of hospitals and distinguish them from the public areas, so that ICE may not enter private areas without a judicial warrant. It also requires hospitals to designate staff to interact with ICE and ensure they have a valid warrant if they in fact to be granted access to private areas. It also safeguards our personal information as patients. It also, importantly, requires hospitals to post certain relevant information for staff, including our rights under the US Constitution and information on navigating immigration support available in Oregon. It creates a protection for any staff disseminating this information to patients.

These changes are sorely needed, immediately. To be a healthy, secure state we must all trust that we can receive healthcare safely. This bill is part of the Immigrant Justice Package and has been identified as a priority by immigrants in Oregon. Please pass this bill and put some limits on immigration enforcement

in what may be the most sensitive of all sensitive locations, hospitals. Thank you.