



Caring for Oregon

February 4, 2026

Oregon State Legislature

Senate Committee on Health Care

900 Court Street NE Salem, OR 97301

Submitted electronically via OLIS

Re: Testimony in Support of SB 1570 –1

Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Hayden, and members of the Senate Healthcare Committee,

My name is Kathryn, and I am proud to be a labor representative with the Oregon Nurses Association, representing nearly 1,200 nurses at Legacy Emmanuel Hospital in Portland.

The Oregon Nurses Association represents over 24,000 nurses and other healthcare workers across the State of Oregon.

I am writing this for them today.

I have been a nurse for almost 12 years and made the transition to my role now almost a year ago.

Many of our members fear retaliation from their employer for speaking out to share their stories and experiences with federal agent overreach and enforcement in their hospital. They should be able to advocate for SB 1570 without that fear.

I'd like to share a story with one of our members.

"The entire time I had to take care of the patient (detainee) was so stressful and nerve-wracking. There wasn't one time when I didn't feel on edge walking towards his room on the unit. It was especially difficult to have two new ICE agents every four hours. Every four hours they would come in with new rules, new interpretations of how they were allowed to stand and watch over the patient.

They asked for information regarding the patient's condition multiple times, which I told them was not allowed and that I would not tell them anything. At one point they told me the patient wanted to leave against medical advice, and I told them I had to hear it from the patient themselves... The patient didn't want to leave and was just scared.

Two of the agents walked in with face coverings at one point, and they very reluctantly took them off after the charge asked them multiple times. There was also confusion as to whether security had to escort them through the unit, as there were times when they just walked in the doors/ buzzed in unaccompanied - including opening the back door for one another.

The patient's ankles were shackled the entire time. Upon admission and multiple other times, it was clear that the shackles were causing the patient to be at risk of falling. When we asked the agents to remove the shackles, they refused. **The agents explained to us that they would rather have him fall and injure himself than remove the shackles.**

This story should not have happened. SB 1570 is a step towards ensuring this won't happen again. SB 1570 restores patient privacy, improves healthcare worker safety, and ensures everyone can access their **healthcare without fear.**

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I want to share a second story we have heard from our members in recent months.

Many have told us they have witnessed ICE agents conduct themselves in an unprofessional way that violated patient privacy.

In one instance an agent went behind the charge nurse desk without permission and began looking through the EMS log, which contains protected health information. They were told on multiple accounts that they were not permitted to look at private information without adhering to proper protocols. The agents continued to look. When escalated to hospital administration, they did not interfere or ensure that patients' privacy was being upheld. There is a whole policy in place at this facility that details how we should release information to law enforcement, and this is not how properly trained law enforcement personnel behave.

Our number one priority as nurses is to ensure that we can continue to provide a sanctuary for our patients, so that they can receive excellent care fairly, without fear that their privacy is being breached.

Hospitals should be places of healing, not fear or intimidation.

SB 1570 is a step towards the sanctuary we want to restore.

Please support SB 1570 with the –1 (dash one) amendment.

Thank you.

Kathryn RN