

Submitter:

Matthew Breeze

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB1570

As a family physician and medical director for primary care clinics across NE Portland, I hear daily of the impact of immigration enforcement activity on the wellbeing of our patients and staff. My patients tell me they are afraid to come to the clinic for necessary preventive and medical care. We are seeing fewer visits from immigrant patients, regardless of their documentation status, due to fear of being in the community. Patients are fearful to have their name on a schedule. Our staff, too, have related concerns about being in the workplace, due to their worry about the risk of ICE activity at the clinic. Some staff are also staying home to care for family members, who are avoiding leaving the home. This is an untenable situation, the results of which are not even entirely evident yet, but will likely manifest in worsened control of chronic diseases, such as diabetes and heart disease, and delayed access to emergent, specialty, and surgical care. People in Oregon need to know that they can safely schedule and attend medical visits at clinic, seek emergency or inpatient care. If not, our community at large will pay the price with a greater burden of illness, increased cost of care, and decreased work productivity. Thank you, Matthew Breeze MD