

Submitter: Mary Nametka  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1570  
Mary Nametka, DNP, ARNP, FNP-BC

February 3, 2026

RE: Testimony in Support of SB 1570-1

To the Senate Health Care Committee:

I have been a professional nurse for 50 years and have served in many states across this country and in the U.S Air Force as a Clinical Nurse Specialist during Desert Storm. My brother was a retired police officer in Upstate New York. I respect the rule of law. Never in all these years have I felt that the very fabric of law order is being violated as it is now. There are times when legal officers of the law need to enter care areas in a limited way, but NEVER have I seen the way these paramilitary (unconstitutional) individuals are invading our heretofore protected spaces. The presence of these poorly trained paramilitary ICE enforcement agents merely serve to escalate matters, invade patient privacy and put nurses, patients and all those in the area, at increased risk of experiencing harm. Nurses are dedicated to caring for their patients and should not have to deal with the intrusion of unauthorized armed personnel. They do not belong in care facilities, day cares, churches and the like. When people are in need of medical and nursing care, that is the priority and that care needs to be delivered without the additional anxiety and threat of violence that comes with presence of ICE or other unregulated agents. Legitimate law enforcement, when necessary, respect patient privacy and wait outside the treatment area. There is no visible endorsement of boundaries by these ICE agents. I am all in support of appropriate lawful law enforcement, but people need to feel safe when they seek care for an illness or injury. As healthcare providers, we are pledged to do no harm, to do what is right for our patients. With ICE standing in the room, Armed or not, both the provider and the patient will be suffering unnecessary fear and I guarantee you, their vital signs will not be normal! Nor will the person feel comfortable discussing their problem! I strongly urge you to vote in favor of SB 1570 as an essential measure to protect patient and nursing safety and privacy. We just want to do our jobs and take care of people without being afraid of paramilitary provocation and possible ensuring physical violence. I have practiced in remote areas, rural, urban, schools, correctional facilities, private homes, and have seen patients in temporary / mobile housing- If I need police back-up, I will call for it. We already have mechanisms to work with law enforcement if that be necessary. Intrusion of ICE or any similar paramilitary group is not legal, not appropriate and

certainly violates a patient's right to privacy and the right to speak freely about their concerns to their health care provider under the 1st Amendment, free of harassment or intimidation tactics. Please support this legislation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment and I look forward to your support.

Mary A. Nametka, DNP, ARNP, FNP-BC