

Submitter:

BROOK CLARK

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB1570

Written Testimony in Support of Oregon Senate Bill 1570-1

Brook Clark, RN

NEWPORT, Oregon

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Brook Clark, and I am a registered nurse in Oregon. I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 1570-1.

Hospitals are meant to be places of healing, safety, and trust. When patients walk through our doors, they should never fear arrest, intimidation, or having their care compromised. Yet that is exactly what has been happening in Oregon.

Federal immigration officers have shot people in hospital parking lots. They have arrested families seeking emergency care for their children, including a 7-year-old taken from a hospital parking lot and reportedly denied medical care for days while in custody. These are not isolated incidents; they are warnings.

As nurses, we are trained to assess, protect privacy, and advocate for our patients. But ICE and CBP officers have pressured providers to rush discharges, removed patients against medical advice, refused to leave during private health conversations, and remained present during sensitive exams. They have entered restricted hospital areas without identification and interfered directly with patient care.

No nurse should have to choose between doing what is medically right and complying with an armed federal officer. No patient should delay or avoid care because they are afraid they will be detained.

SB 1570-1 protects the heart of healthcare. It keeps immigration enforcement out of patient care areas without a warrant, protects patient privacy, prevents retaliation against healthcare workers, and ensures that everyone—regardless of immigration status—can seek care without fear.

This bill allows nurses like me to do our jobs ethically and safely. It protects patients when they are at their most vulnerable.

I urge you to vote yes on SB 1570-1.

Respectfully,

Brook Clark, RN BSN

NEWPORT, OREGON