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Dear Members of the Oregon Legislature,

My name is Elizabeth Waite MSN, RN, TCTCN, and I am a registered nurse who has over 15 years in oncology care and 25 years in healthcare, and currently I manage a pediatric oncology clinic and infusion center. I am writing to express my strong support for SB1570 prohibiting disclosure of citizen/immigrations status and prohibiting immigration enforcement activity in healthcare areas that are not accessible to the public.

In pediatric oncology, our patients and families are navigating some of the most frightening and vulnerable moments of their lives. They rely on our clinic not only for highly specialized medical care, but also for a safe, supportive, and trusted environment where they can focus entirely on their child's treatment. The sense of safety within a healthcare setting is not an abstract concept for our families — it is foundation on which trust is built. All members of the family, parents and children, need to feel comfortable seeking care, receiving treatment, and being honest with the healthcare team. To ensure that all patients can receive care in a safe environment we need to ensure that HIPAA protections include immigration status.

It is imperative that we provide care for all of our patients in a safe environment. The presence of immigration enforcement in healthcare settings is unsafe for nurses, patients, healthcare workers, families. In short, it is unsafe for all.

Healthcare workers deserve a safe workplace where they do not need to fear being unlawfully detained by immigration officers. Patients and their families need to be able to access lifesaving care without fear for themselves or their loved ones.

When patients or parents feel fear, hesitation, or mistrust related to being in a healthcare setting, it can delay care, interrupt treatment schedules, and ultimately affect health outcomes. For children receiving oncology care, even small delays or missed visits can be the difference between relapse and remission.

As a nurse leader, I believe this work is essential to maintaining trust between families and the healthcare system and to ensuring that vulnerable patients can access care without fear or hesitation.

I respectfully urge you to support SB1570 and the effort to evaluate and improve protections in Oregon's healthcare facilities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.