

Submitter: Laura Balestreri
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1570

Hello,

As a pediatrician who works at a Federally Qualified Health Center in Medford, I strongly support SB 1570.

I serve some of the most vulnerable children and families in the state. It is already difficult for them to access necessary healthcare, and fears about immigration enforcement are making it even more difficult. Just last week I saw a young Latino patient of mine in a virtual visit. His family chose a virtual visit, because they did not feel safe coming to the clinic. My patient had been struggling in school over the last couple of years, but was starting to make good progress. During the visit the family informed me that they had now also chosen to remove him from his public school and instead into a homeschool program, for fears of his safety. My patient misses his friends, and will likely struggle again without in person instruction. Thankfully, this visit was appropriate for virtual care, but most medical care needs in person care. I worry families like his will forgo necessary medical care if our clinic is not seen as a safe place.

Ensuring that vulnerable Oregonians feel safe accessing necessary medical care regardless of their immigration status is of urgent importance. I urge you to vote YES on SB 1570.

Thank you for the opportunity to share this testimony

Laura Balestreri, MD