

Submitter: Susan Kass
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1570

Dear Legislatures;

I am a family nurse practitioner with over 30 years' experience working in FQHCs. I am writing to urge you to support increased protections for immigrant patients in Oregon Health Care settings.

Over the last 12 months I have seen more and more patients reluctant to seek care due to fears of detention by ICE. I have had parents fearful of seeking specialty care for children with hearing and language concerns because they are afraid to travel, children and families who feel they can no longer walk outside or go to playgrounds, children kept home from school, Increased food insecurity. Increasingly, patients who are scheduled for follow up of their chronic illnesses—diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, depression—fail to attend their clinic appointments or pick up medication refills. When we call in follow up they cite cases of neighbors who have been detained and/or deported while en route to medical appointments.

The implications for our communities, particularly our children, are dire. Please do all in your power to enshrine protections for patients and providers.

Respectfully,

Susan A Kass, fnp