

Submitter: Gretchen Hathaway  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1570

Humans deserve to access health care without fear of retribution, arrest, deportation, or intimidation. This includes ALL humans. The current climate and very real and legitimate fears of ICE entering protected patient areas has the detrimental effect of deterring people from accessing care. This results in a delay in care and can sometimes mean that a minor concern may develop into a more serious medical emergency or death. As a pediatric emergency RN, it is terrifying and sickening to think about families hesitating to take their sick children to the ER out of fear that they will be deported, separated, or killed by ICE on facility grounds. This may sound unlikely, but it happened at Adventist Health when a family bringing their 7-year-old in for emergency care was shot and deported; if I were at risk of being taken by ICE (I.e. brown-skinned), I would likely think twice about taking my child in after hearing about that local event. Please help protect both adults and children needing health care, as well as hospital staff, by reviewing and passing clear guidelines and boundaries for ICE entry and by working to make health care facilities safer places.