

Submitter: Peter Addy
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1570

I am a Licensed Professional Counselor in Oregon and serve on a committee for the state's Universal Health Plan Governance Board. I support SB 1570-1 because immigration enforcement in healthcare settings harms public health for all Oregonians.

Healthcare systems need community trust to work. When people see hospitals as places where they might be detained rather than healed, they avoid seeking care. The recent case of a family detained while seeking emergency care for their 7-year-old daughter shows this problem clearly. This also leads to diseases spreading unchecked, and treatable conditions worsening. This affects everyone's health, not just immigrant families.

When people avoid care out of fear, it creates bigger problems and higher costs for our healthcare system. On the Universal Health Plan Governance Board, I see how this works. People who skip preventive care end up in emergency rooms with serious problems that cost much more to treat. This is bad policy and wastes healthcare dollars.

This problem is especially serious for mental health and addiction treatment. These treatments only work when patients feel safe enough to keep coming back. In my practice of treating trauma, I see how fear stops people from healing. When patients worry that going to the hospital might mean detention or separation from their families, they won't seek help. Problems that could be treated in regular appointments turn into mental health emergencies.

SB 1570-1 fixes these problems by creating clear rules. It keeps patient care areas off-limits to immigration agents unless they have a valid court warrant. It requires hospitals to have clear procedures for dealing with federal agents. It protects healthcare workers who give patients accurate information about their rights. These rules help our healthcare system work the way it should.

I urge you to support SB 1570-1. It strengthens Oregon's healthcare system and helps hospitals and clinics do their jobs.

Thank you for considering this testimony, and I look forward to your support.

Peter H Addy, PhD