

Submitter:

Eva McCarthy

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB1570

I am a licensed and practicing family medicine physician writing in support of SB1570- Healthcare without Fear. A majority of my patients are presenting everyday with fear and anxiety about the current state of the US healthcare system and the inequities that are perpetuated by this system. In light of the recent anti-immigration enforcement tactics by the current federal administration, a new cause of fear has been affecting the most marginalized and vulnerable patients, and this is causing them to withdraw from accessing necessary health care. My clinic serves a small refugee population. While my healthcare system has some policies in place regarding how to respond to ICE inquiries, I do not feel that this is sufficient to reassure patients that they are safe to access our facilities and receive the necessary healthcare that they need. More must be done by the state and at the legislative level. We have seen a decline in the number of refugee patients coming in for follow up and preventative care visits at our clinic. There are valued office staff who I work with who have sent out contingency plans and emergency contacts to the few that they trust within the office in case they do not present to work. I witness the mental toll that this type of stress takes on the wellbeing of our patients, colleagues, and staff when there is already a lot to bear by working in primary care. This bill will reinforce safety and protection for those who seek healthcare and work in healthcare. Please vote yes on SB1570 Thank you.