



February 4, 2026

To: Senate Committee On Health Care
From: Zach Winston, Policy Director

Re: Testimony in Support of SB 1570

Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Hayden, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Zach Winston. I am the Policy Director for the Oregon Justice Resource Center (OJRC). The OJRC strongly supports SB 1570.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of legislation to ensure that all people can seek medical care without fear of unreasonable immigration enforcement and to provide clear, consistent guidance and protections for healthcare workers.

When individuals are afraid to enter health care facilities because of potential immigration enforcement, they may choose to delay or forgo care. That hesitation does not stay contained—it increases medical acuity and undermines the health of entire communities.

Recent federal policy changes have heightened these concerns by allowing immigration enforcement actions in locations that were previously treated as sensitive, including hospitals. Additionally, there are reports of federal officers causing concerns among patients and healthcare workers by bringing individuals into Oregon hospitals and failing to follow standard hospital.

The absence of clear and enforceable statutory standards places caregivers and patients at risk. There are instances of this absence creating confusion, compromising patient safety, and undermining the ability of healthcare professionals to do their jobs. SB 1570 addresses that gap directly.

SB 1570 establishes clear statewide standards to protect patients and healthcare workers. These standards will ensure Oregonians receive the highest quality of care without fear or interruption. Patients will have their citizenship, immigration status, and country of birth treated the same as protected health information and healthcare workers will be protected from retaliation or discipline when sharing lawful and accurate materials relating to immigration or constitutional rights.

The OJRC urges you to support SB 1570 and reaffirm that health care facilities in Oregon should be places of healing and trust, not fear and intimidation.