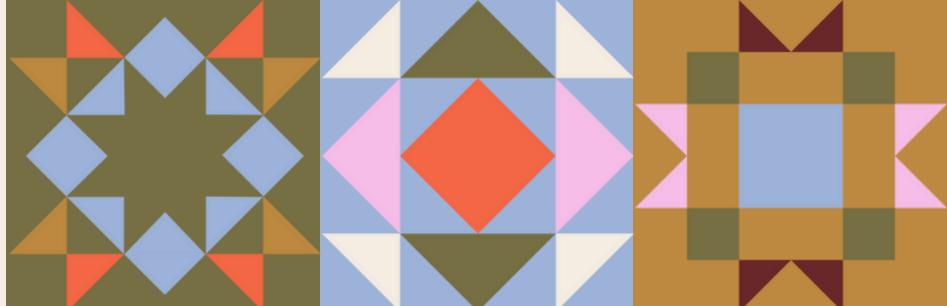




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Dear Members of the Senate Health Care Committee,

My name is Mica Contreras, Executive Director of the Linn Benton Lincoln Health Equity Alliance. I write today to express my strong support for SB 1570, the Healthcare Without Fear Act. Access to health care should never depend on fear of immigration enforcement. SB 1570 upholds a core value that hospitals and clinics must be places of care, safety, and trust for all who need medical attention. When people are afraid to seek care, the impact extends beyond individuals and families to the health of our entire community.

This bill provides much-needed clarity for health care facilities and staff by setting a clear, statewide standard to ensure hospitals are not used as tools for federal enforcement. It establishes accountability for immigration agents in health care settings, protects patients and staff, upholds ethical and legal health care standards, and helps keep our communities safe. SB 1570 allows clinicians to focus on caring for patients rather than navigating enforcement situations. It strengthens patient privacy overall and allows health care workers to inform patients of their legal rights.

As a Regional Health Equity Coalition committed to ensuring everyone has the opportunity to achieve their best health, regardless of identity or circumstance, we have seen firsthand how fear prevents people from seeking care. We need these protections so people can seek care early, rather than waiting until conditions become emergencies. Delaying care inevitably leads to worse health outcomes and increases strain on emergency departments, health systems, and other social systems overall.

SB 1570 will establish boundaries that protect patient dignity, public health, and the integrity of care settings. Oregon has long advanced compassionate policies supporting health, safety, and trust. I urge you to support SB 1570 as an important next step. Thank you for your commitment to the well-being of all Oregonians.

Sincerely,

Mica Contreras  
Executive Director

