

Submitter: Katherine Kusmaul

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1570

Katherine Kusmaul, Advanced Practice Registered Nurse- Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner

RE: Testimony in Support of SB 1570-1

To the Senate Health Care Committee:

I have been a nurse in Oregon since 2008, serving diverse patient populations in a variety of settings. It is horrifying to provide care while my patients are at risk of federal officers violating their rights and tearing their families apart. Our community must have the right to access health care and focus on healing, regardless of immigration status, and without being illegally profiled based on race or ethnicity. As nurses and medical providers we are fighting for their health, and ICE officers are jeopardizing our ability to continue to do that.

In Oregon, more and more immigrants are delaying care for themselves and their dependents, putting people at risk of worsened health, greater caretaking burden in the home, and increased fear and isolation. Hospitals and federally qualified health centers should be places that all Oregonians, regardless of immigration status, trust for their care.

My own clinic had to implement multiple safety measures to protect our patients from ICE, including locking our doors and providing staff training about our rights and responsibilities to protect our patients. Yet without this protection we may have little legal backing for our efforts.

Please pass SB 1570 to make our health care facilities safer for people to access health care. Thank you for considering this testimony and I look forward to your support.