

Chair Patterson and Members of the Senate Committee on Health Care,

My name is Matt DeRosa, and I am a proud member of SEIU Local 503, representing Oregon state workers. I am writing in strong support of SB 1570-1.

As union members, we believe healthcare should be safe, humane, and grounded in dignity for both patients and for workers. Oregon has long recognized this through its sanctuary laws, which make clear that state institutions exist to serve the public, not to act as extensions of federal immigration enforcement. SB 1570-1 carries that principle into our hospitals, where it is urgently needed.

When ICE and other federal agents wander hospital halls or remain in private exam rooms despite nurses' objections, it sends a chilling message to immigrant patients and to the caregivers sworn to protect them. That fear delays care, worsens health outcomes, and fractures trust in our healthcare system.

This bill provides what frontline workers are asking for: clear rules, clear boundaries, and clear accountability. By requiring hospitals to define patient care areas, designate trained supervisors to handle law enforcement interactions, and protect patient information, SB 1570-1 allows caregivers to focus on care.

I am especially grateful for the bill's protections against retaliation. No worker should fear discipline for sharing accurate know-your-rights information or helping patients navigate terrifying moments with honesty and compassion. Protecting workers who speak the truth is core to union values and essential to patient safety.

Hospitals should never be places of fear. SB 1570-1 helps ensure they remain places of healing. I urge you to support this bill.

Respectfully,

Matt DeRosa

Section Officer, Paid Leave Oregon, Sub-local 471, SEIU Local 503