

## Support SB 1570: Ensure Safe Access to Medical Care for Children and Families

February 4, 2026

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

My name is Arielle Hacker and I am submitting testimony on behalf of Prevent Child Abuse Oregon (PCAO) to urge you to pass SB 1570, which will support access to critical medical services for all people seeking care in Oregon, especially for victims and survivors of sexual and domestic violence, child abuse, and trafficking who are also immigrants. Access to trauma-informed, confidential health care is essential to preventing and responding to child abuse, neglect, domestic and sexual violence, and trafficking.

PCAO is the Oregon chapter of Prevent Child Abuse America, the oldest and largest nonprofit dedicated to the prevention of child abuse and neglect in the country. Our work is grounded in the understanding that child safety begins with caregiver safety, trust in systems, and timely access to care. We partner closely with community-based organizations, domestic and sexual violence advocates, home visiting programs, child advocacy centers, health care providers, and state agencies across Oregon through the Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Collaborative.

Through this work, we consistently see the connection between a family's sense of safety and their willingness to seek medical care for themselves and their children. When caregivers fear that seeking health care could expose them or their children to immigration enforcement, surveillance, or family separation, they delay or avoid care altogether. These barriers in access to care put families and children at risk. SB 1570 helps ensure that hospitals remain places where people can seek care safely and without fear.

SB 1570 addresses issues expressed by emergency departments, forensic nurses, advocates, and community-based partners, including:

- Survivors leaving the emergency department before receiving care or evidence collection due to fear of legal or safety repercussions.
- Patients declining to speak with nurses, advocates, or law enforcement because they are unsure what information hospitals might share with immigration officials.
- Hospital staff uncertain how to respond when an immigration officer appears without clear documentation.
- Inconsistent policies across facilities, creating risk for patients, families, and staff.
- Heightened vulnerability in rural communities, where children already face limited access to services.

SB 1570 strengthens patient privacy and safety in alignment with HIPAA, Oregon's Sanctuary Promise Act, and nationally recognized standards of care by establishing clear, trauma-informed expectations for how health care facilities respond to immigration enforcement. These protections are especially important for children, who rely on adults and institutions to recognize support needs and intervene early.

When families avoid medical settings out of fear:

- Illnesses and injuries to children may go untreated
- Opportunities to identify and stop offenders of violence and abuse are lost
- Children and caregivers miss access to critical follow-up services and supports that are often initiated in hospital settings, including advocacy, safety planning, mental health care, and referrals to community-based resources
- Long-term health, safety, and developmental outcomes for children are compromised

SB 1570 also supports the health care workforce. Nurses, physicians, social workers, advocates, and security staff need clear guidance to respond lawfully and ethically while prioritizing child and patient safety. This bill provides the structure needed for consistent, appropriate responses across both urban and rural facilities.

Ultimately, **SB 1570 strengthens Oregon's child abuse prevention system**, reinforces trauma-informed care, and protects the integrity of hospitals as trusted places where children and families can seek help without fear, regardless of immigration status.

Thank you for your time and for your continued commitment to Oregon's children, families, and communities.

In partnership,



Arielle Hacker

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