

Submitter: Lyn Jacobs
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1570

Dear Senator Sollman;

I am writing to support SB1570, Healthcare without Fear, legislation that has been spearheaded by the Oregon Nurses Association. The legislation is based on California SB81, which was enacted in 2025.

Across Oregon, health care providers are reporting that patients are delaying or avoiding medically necessary care due to fear of immigration enforcement in health care settings. When people avoid care, the consequences affect not only individual patients but public health and community safety statewide.

I personally spend almost each clinic day listening to stories of delayed care, lack of exercise, poor diet, skipping needed medications all due to fear of immigration officials pulling people off the streets and out of clinic parking lots.

SB1570 Summary:

Protects Patients

Requires hospitals to designate non-public patient care areas where immigration enforcement is restricted unless agents present a valid judicial warrant or court order
Limits disclosures of sensitive information to immigration authorities

Treats a patient's immigration status and place of birth as protected health information

Requires facilities to adopt internal policies for responding to enforcement requests

Supports Health Care Workers

Staff in supervisory roles must take responsibility to interface with ICE

Prohibits retaliation or discipline against hospital workers who share lawful and accurate educational materials relating to immigration or constitutional rights

Applies protections broadly to frontline health care workers who directly interface with patients

Enforcement

Relies on existing oversight structure: enforcement through the Oregon Health Authority

The values that this bill upholds resonate with hundreds of healthcare workers across Oregon, who have supported Scrubs for Sanctuary's Change.org petition "Protect safe access to health care for immigrant families" with 700 signatures and counting.

This legislation represents a balanced, practical approach that safeguards patient trust, supports ethical medical practice, and strengthens Oregon's public health infrastructure.

I respectfully ask that you support SB1570 in the 2026 short session and ask for your leadership in protecting safe access to health care across our state.

Thank you for your leadership and for your commitment to the health and well-being of Oregonians.

Sincerely,

Lyn Jacobs, M.D.

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