

Submitter: Tracy Chin
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1570

I'm an RN at a local Portland hospital. I am saddened and angry that our hospitals and other healthcare facilities are working with ICE and border control agents while violating patients' privacy rights. I'm in support of this bill that would increase protection for patients, as these individuals are ultimately seeking medical care and should not fear doing this. NO patient should think twice about going to the ED or seeing their provider because they're afraid of being abducted, detained and deported. Agents are breaking the law by not having warrants to conduct their "business" and healthcare facilities should be places of healing and safety for individuals. My coworkers and I have taken care of patients who are afraid to seek medical care, pick up meds, attend appointments---some are even refusing to go to dialysis. For those that don't know, it is a death sentence if you don't get dialysis regularly. Yet this is what patients are facing on a daily basis.

I have also attended a number of protests and most recently was at one where ICE agents teargassed us even though we were peacefully protesting. They think they are above the law because there are ultimately no repercussions for them. Passing this bill will at least offer some protection for patients not to mention healthcare staff who continue to be forced into unethical situations. What is happening in this country is appalling and traumatizing for so many of us. We can stand up against *some* of these injustices by doing the right thing and passing this bill. Please protect this vulnerable population as well as the healthcare workers.