



February 4th 2026

RE: Testimony in Support of SB 1570-1, The Healthcare Without Fear Act

To the Oregon Senate Health Care Committee:

My name is Elora (she/her), and I am the HR Operations Director at APANO Communities United Fund (CUF), a culturally-specific organization, where we strive to ensure Asians and communities who share our aspirations and struggles, have the power, resources and voice to determine their own futures. I submit this testimony in strong and deeply personal support of SB 1570-1, The Healthcare Without Fear Act.

I am writing today not only as a professional working alongside immigrant communities, but as a parent and community member who has carried profound grief, anger and moral distress over witnessing the injustices and inhumane treatment immigrants continue to face- often in places that should be safe, healing and humane.

Healthcare settings must be places of trust, dignity and privacy. Yet in the current climate of heightened immigration enforcement, that trust is breaking down, fast. SB 1570-1 responds to an urgent and real problem: the unaccountable presence of federal immigration officers in Oregon hospitals and the devastating fear this creates for patients and healthcare workers, alike.

Recently, through community conversations connected to my child's school, I heard directly from a healthcare worker about deeply troubling conditions inside the local hospital in which they work. I am sharing this experience in broad terms to protect the identities and safety of those involved. What was described to me was a pattern of hospital staff feeling pressured to accommodate immigration enforcement activity- allowing officers to pass through emergency department doors and remain in areas where patients urgently require care, privacy, and protection. According to this account, immigration officers at times remained in patient care spaces even after nurses and physicians asserted that patient privacy standards required them to leave. The nurse also shared that in addition to not following the requests for them to leave made by nurses and physicians, there were officers who physically obstructed care providers from doing their job, one example being an ICE agent blocking a nurse from administering a much needed IV for a patient.

This experience was shared with me not as an isolated incident, but as an example of the fear, moral distress, and confusion healthcare workers are navigating in the absence of clear statewide standards. Hearing this left me shaken and heartbroken, thinking about patients at their most vulnerable moments



and caregivers being placed in impossible positions between their professional obligations and institutional pressure.

Emergency rooms are often treated as public-facing spaces, leaving frontline healthcare workers without authority, clarity or protection to set boundaries. This pushes that responsibility to individual nurses, physicians - people who should be focused on saving lives, not navigating encounters with federal agents.

SB 1570-1 ensures that hospitals clearly define patient care areas where immigration enforcement activity is not permitted absent a valid judicial warrant, and that trained supervisory staff—not frontline caregivers—are designated to interfere with ICE and assess the validity of warrants. This is essential to maintaining patient trust and high clinical standards.

Equally critical are the bill's protections for caregivers against retaliation for sharing accurate know-your-rights information. Healthcare workers must be able to provide truthful information related to constitutional rights, immigration law, and navigation to legal or community-based services without fear of losing their jobs. No one should be punished for acting ethically, compassionately and within the law.

Improper and unanticipated law enforcement presence in healthcare settings should never compromise provider-recommended care or the privacy every patient deserves. We need statewide standards that reinforce privacy boundaries, rather than leaving each hospital or worker to navigate these situations alone.

SB 1570-1 provides that clarity, by governing Oregon institutions through hospital licensure under the Oregon Health Authority. Similar measures have been enacted in other states, and Oregon should demonstrate the same moral leadership.

I support SB 1570-1 because healthcare without fear is a human necessity and basic human right. No one should ever have to choose between their health and their safety, their dignity, or their family. I want my child to grow up in a state that recognizes the humanity of every person and ensures care is provided with compassion, fairness, and respect—regardless of immigration status or background.

Thank you for considering my testimony. I urge you to support SB 1570-1.

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APANO Communities United Fund