

Submitter:

Christina Forton

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB1570

I am a second-generation immigrant, a mother of four, and an Oregon resident. I am writing in opposition to SB 1570.

My parents came to this country legally, worked hard, followed the rules, and raised their children to do the same. I was taught to value opportunity, accountability, and respect for the law. Those values guide how I raise my own children today.

I understand the concern about fear in healthcare settings, and I fully support protecting patient privacy and access to care. Hospitals should always be places of healing. However, SB 1570 goes far beyond that goal and promotes a narrative that does not reflect reality or respect the complexity of our systems.

Let's be real. Federal agencies like DHS and ICE have specific mandates, legal processes, and oversight. They are not simply walking into hospitals and pulling random people out of crowds based on skin color. Suggesting that they do is not only inaccurate, it is deeply disrespectful to immigrants who went through legal processes and to healthcare workers who are being put in the middle of something they do not control.

This bill shifts responsibility away from federal authorities and places it squarely on hospitals, clinics, and frontline caregivers. These individuals are not trained immigration experts. They should not be expected to interpret federal enforcement authority while simultaneously caring for sick children, parents, and grandparents. That expectation is unrealistic and unfair.

As a mother, I want my children to grow up learning nuance, not fear. SB 1570's broad and vague language feeds anxiety rather than solutions. It creates legal risk for caregivers and facilities, diverts resources away from patient care, and opens the door to serious unintended consequences, including reduced access to healthcare in our communities.

I am also concerned about the waste of taxpayer dollars. This bill would require new compliance systems, enforcement actions, and regulatory oversight, all while addressing behavior that hospitals already have limited ability to influence. Public funds should support patient care, staffing, and access to services, not duplicative or punitive regulatory structures that do not solve the underlying issues.

We can protect patient dignity without undermining the rule of law or turning healthcare workers into legal gatekeepers. We can have honest conversations without assuming motives or painting complex systems with overly simple narratives. I urge you to oppose SB 1570 in its current form and instead work collaboratively with healthcare providers, immigrant communities, and public safety agencies to find realistic, effective solutions.