

Submitter: Alycia Jackson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1570

My name is Alycia Jackson and I am a Family Medicine physician, educator, community member and advocate for the city of Hillsboro where I work and train future Family Medicine physicians. I wish to voice my strong support for SB 1570 in order to safeguard healthcare facilities. Seeking medical care is a human right for all and we as Oregonians need to do everything in our power to uphold the Oregon Sanctuary Laws. The fear of ICE agents operating outside the law and terrorizing people, including U.S. citizens, is crippling our communities. People in Hillsboro and beyond have been sheltering in place for months due to fear and unable to receive medical attention which in turn worsens health outcomes for some of our most vulnerable community members. Another less spoken about issue is that our healthcare workers and students pursuing healthcare careers (such as nursing students, medical students, resident physicians, etc.) are also afraid to go to work/school because of the fear of a possible encounter with an ICE agent. Patients are refusing to come in for both routine, urgent and emergent care and this has and will continue to harm people if we do not protect our healthcare spaces. One block from our hospital in Hillsboro, a community member was attacked by ICE agents on the road. There have been resident physicians racially profiled by ICE agents on and near hospital property that make them fearful to walk to and from the parking lot. I have clinic staff members who are traumatized by ICE agent encounters at home that still show up to work to help care for others. This bill will help provide stronger protections for all who are seeking medical care as well as those who work in healthcare. Thank you for considering this essential piece of legislation that can bring back some peace to our healthcare facilities so all people can seek and receive the medical care that they deserve.