

Dear Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Hayden, and Members of the Committee,

We are the Association of University Registered Nurses (AURN) 2026 contract bargaining team representing over 4,000 registered nurses at Oregon Health and Science University Hospital, and we are writing in **SUPPORT** of SB 1570 Healthcare Without Fear.

Over the past year, we have witnessed a terrifying and escalating campaign by ICE and other federal immigration officers to harass, injure and disappear individuals in our communities. The federal government is demonstrating its deadly disregard for human rights and due process. Healthcare facilities were once places people could go and access life-saving treatment without fear of being questioned or detained. Now, our frontline nurses see immigration agents in hospitals and clinics unannounced, video surveilling patients and visitors in public areas, and actively impeding healthcare workers from taking care of patients who are in custody or suspected of being undocumented.

The reckless actions of federal immigration officers are creating an environment of fear in our healthcare facilities. As nurses, we fear that an ICE officer will prevent us from taking care of our patients or harass us with requests that violate privacy laws or our professional code of ethics. We fear for our patients and their family and community who do not feel safe going to the hospital for an emergency, to give birth, or to attend a clinic appointment. This campaign by ICE and federal agents is showing no limits and is indiscriminately targeting any person of color, regardless of immigration or citizenship status, as well as anyone who speaks up against the civil rights abuses we are seeing every day. No one should be afraid to seek medical care. No healthcare worker should be afraid to provide the care we know our patients need. We need limits on federal immigration enforcement activities in healthcare facilities NOW.

SB 1570 Healthcare Without Fear takes a big step towards protecting patients and healthcare workers from the abuses of immigration enforcement officers. This bill will require hospitals to designate non-public areas that are dedicated to patient care and where an immigration enforcement officer is not allowed to enter without an appropriate warrant or court order. This is necessary to delineate a space where patient privacy and dignity are maintained. This is not a privilege but a right that all patients deserve.

This bill will also designate immigration status and place of birth as protected health information. As nurses, we vigilantly protect our patients' information and privacy as part of our code of ethics as well as following federal and state medical privacy laws.

This bill protects healthcare workers who share information with patients about their constitutional rights. As nurses, we educate our patients on a whole array of topics to support their health and well-being. Providing patients with their constitutional rights falls in line with nursing best practices.

This bill requires hospitals to designate a hospital administrator or manager other than security staff to directly interface with an immigration officer to verify identification documents and warrants. As nurses, we are quite often the frontline clinical staff who first interact with patients

in a wide variety of care settings. We need to focus on the clinical assessments and care that our patients need, and not be preoccupied with determining the appropriateness of a warrant or law enforcement credentials.

While human rights in the United States continue to be brazenly abused by immigration enforcement agents, we as nurses are called upon to take bold action to protect our patients and coworkers. We demand that our medical institutions continue to be places people go to seek healthcare when they need it most. SB 1570 Healthcare Without Fear is the right step towards protecting Oregonians from the horrifying actions of ICE and other immigration enforcement officers.

Sincerely,

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