

Submitter: Chandra Siim
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1570
02/05/2026

RE: Testimony in Support of SB 1570-1

To the Senate Health Care Committee:

Research shows that immigration raids have a negative impact on the community at large, not just immigrants. Unfortunately, when one government-supported system harms a community, it breeds suspicion of all other government-supported systems and thereby impedes access to those services. I work in healthcare and have seen how immigration enforcement agents' presence in local hospitals has created such fear among the community at large, not just immigrants, that it impairs our ability to provide care. For instance, at least one patient who was admitted to the hospital self-directed their discharge against medical advice & explicitly stated it was because of immigration enforcement presence. Immigrant & non-white colleagues carry passports or birth certificates to work out of an abundance of caution due to the practice of racial profiling. We cannot provide care to people who are too afraid to seek care. We cannot care for our patients when staff fear for their own safety. Please protect our community's access to healthcare by supporting SB 1570.

Thank you for considering this testimony, and I look forward to your support.