

Submitter: Juliet Duforet
On Behalf Of: R.I.S.E. Advocacy and Policy Committee
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1570
To the House Committee on Rules,

I am Juliet Duforet and I serve as Co-Director of R.I.S.E. of the Umpqua and Willamette Valleys. We are a regional health equity coalition that serves Douglas and Lane Counties. Our mission is to work as a collective movement to center around the needs and voices of underserved/ underrepresented community members to address the root causes of health inequities caused by systemic oppression utilizing an intersectional lens.

The R.I.S.E. Policy and Advocacy Committee strongly supports SB 1570, also known as The Healthcare Without Fear Act.

This bill provides hospitals the opportunity to be able to more effectively protect patients, staff, volunteers, and other people engaged in hospital business from unlawful or unnecessary law enforcement activities. The protections in this bill will serve immigrants as well as citizens that may be incorrectly profiled by law enforcement as immigrants. It is vital for the health of the public that hospitals be safe places to go and that those who provide care are able to do so consistently and safely.

We are for:

- hospitals protecting data concerning citizenship
- hospitals designating which areas of the hospital are not open to the public
- making it unlawful for hospitals or federally qualified health centers to retaliate or take disciplinary action against an employee for distributing informational or educational materials concerning immigration rights and legal services
- allowing hospital or federally qualified health center employees alleging a violation of the above to file a complaint with the Bureau of Labor and Industries.

It is in all of our best interests to make sure that hospitals are safe places and in areas of Oregon where there are not many options for health care, such as rural areas, this is even more vital. The fear of being unjustly and harshly victimized by law enforcement is shared by many people. We need to make sure that our system is protecting the public and promoting the health of the public.

Please vote yes on SB 1570.

Sincerely,

Juliet Duforet

On behalf of RISE of the Umpqua and Willamette Valleys