

Submitter: Sumeeth Bhat
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1570

Sumeeth Bhat
2/26/2026
RE: Testimony in Support of SB 1570
Members of the House Rules Committee:

I urge you to pass SB 1570, the Healthcare Without Fear Act. It is imperative that Oregonians, regardless of their background, view Oregon healthcare facilities as safe places to receive care.

Many immigrants today are delaying hospital and clinic care. Unaccountable federal-law-enforcement behavior has had staggering effects on Oregon life; healthcare is no exception. Due to the Department of Homeland Security ending its “sensitive locations” policy and ramping up deportations, we have seen unacceptable trends in Oregon hospitals. ICE officers wander hospital halls and remain with patients in private exam rooms after nurses assert that patient-privacy standards mandate that they leave. ICE officers have violated patients’ rights by attempting to dictate care for those whom they bring to the hospital in custody.

This bill:
Makes hospitals responsible for having policies that clearly delineate public vs. private space, and puts hospital supervisory staff, not frontline caregivers, in the position of interacting with law enforcement
Increases the safeguarding of immigration-sensitive patient information from disclosure to law enforcement
Establishes new protections for caregivers against retaliation for the sharing of know-your-rights information
Together, these measures can contribute to a level of consistency healthcare workers need to do their jobs. Further, these measures can support vulnerable patients, who need access to healthcare and should receive it at high standards, not at the whims of an ICE agent.

Please pass SB 1570, including with the forthcoming amendment to align section 1, subsection 3 with the bill’s intent. Immigrant Oregonians and non-immigrant Oregonians — and more than thirty advocacy organizations from spheres of labor, healthcare, immigrant services and beyond — are counting on you to take these steps to make hospitals and federally qualified health centers safer for all.

Thank you,

Sumeeth Bhat