

Submitter: Sidra Ahmad

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1570

Dear Chair Bowman, Vice-Chairs Elmer and Pham, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Sidra Ahmad, and I am a member of the Oregon Pediatric Society. I am writing in support of SB 1570, legislation that effectively responds to calls from our patients and their families, as well as our colleagues, across the healthcare community to ensure that healthcare facilities are safe spaces, free of intimidation or fear of arrest.

Pediatric providers provide essential care for the youngest and most vulnerable populations across the state, from well-child and specialty pediatric care to urgent and emergent care. Our children and youth, and their families and caregivers, rely on pediatric providers to support them to ensure that every child can achieve optimal health. SB 1570 provides urgently needed clarity regarding limitations on federal immigration enforcement in hospitals and clinics and requires health care facilities to establish consistent policies and procedures for responding when federal immigration authorities arrive. This will allow pediatric providers, nurses and other medical staff to focus on building trust and providing compassionate and patient-centered healthcare to all children and their families during this unprecedented time of fear and uncertainty.

The bill upholds the right for patient privacy in healthcare, designates clinical spaces as safe so that timely and appropriate medical care can be administered without hinderance, and provides clarity for the rights of patients and providers. I respectfully urge you to support SB 1570.

Thank you for your time and leadership.

Sincerely,
Sidra Ahmad