

Submitter: Cristian Mendoza Ruvalcaba
On Behalf Of: Oregon Nurses Association
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1570

Oregon House of Representatives:

My name is Cristian Mendoza Ruvalcaba. I am a nurse practitioner from Medford and a member of the Oregon Nurses Association. In addition to being a member, I sit on our Cabinet on Health Policy. Although I am an employee of OHSU, this is a personal opinion and does not represent the opinion of OHSU.

I respectfully urge you to pass SB 1570A, the Healthcare Without Fear Act, with the adopted amendments. It is essential that all Oregonians, regardless of background, view healthcare facilities as safe and welcoming places to receive care.

Many immigrants are delaying seeking care at hospitals due to fear. Unaccountable federal enforcement actions have had far-reaching effects on life in Oregon, and healthcare is no exception. With the Department of Homeland Security ending its "sensitive locations" policy and ramping up deportations, we have seen troubling trends in Oregon hospitals, where fear and mistrust of immigrant officials prevent individuals from seeking the care they need.

SB 1570A affirms that healthcare settings must remain safe and accessible to all. This is not only a matter of public health, but also a matter of human dignity. Every person possesses inherent worth and humanity, and we have an ethical obligation to honor and respect that. By protecting access to care, we respond to our neighbors with kindness, compassion, and recognition of their inherent humanity. Upholding these principles strengthens individual wellbeing, community health, and public trust.

Healthcare is a human right, and every person deserves access to care without fear. Passing SB 1570A ensures that Oregonians can seek care without fear, and it reflects our shared commitment to honoring the humanity of every member of our community. I respectfully urge your support of this bill.

Thank you,
Cristian Mendoza Ruvalcaba, DNP, APRN, FNP-C, CPNP-PC, CNE
Resident of Medford