My name is Jack Schrader. I have been a registered nurse for 8 years and am a member of the Maine State Nurses Association. I'm here to ask you to support this legislation to promote the safety, well-being, and health of our community.

ICE agents are invoking terror on some of the most vulnerable members of our communities. I have many coworkers who are too afraid to leave their house to go to work, the grocery store, or even for a walk through their neighborhood for risk of being racially profiled and abducted by ICE. People are afraid to seek medical care that they need. A lot of asylum seekers already have a much harder time accessing healthcare due to language barriers, lack of transportation, living in food deserts, lack of money, etc. Making healthcare even more inaccessible contributes to the ongoing public health crisis.

First, do no harm. The guiding principle of being a healthcare worker. We help. We heal - indiscriminately. We do the very best that we can to take care of people. To keep them safe. ICE is antithetical to everything that healthcare workers stand for. We care for people because we value human life. We value health. We respect the dignity of the people we serve. ICE dehumanizes people. They tear families apart. They invoke terror. They are violent. They are actively traumatizing our communities.

Nurses are trained to do everything we can to keep our patients safe. We are the ones who are calm in a crisis. Who are brave even when we are scared and who will not bat an eye at putting ourselves in the path of harm to keep another person safe. Alex Pretti is a great example of someone who lived the core values of a nurse. He did something I am certain any of my coworkers would do - respond to harm with selfless compassion in order to help his fellow man. We should not have to face armed agents in our workplace.

Nobody should have to feel the agony of choosing between potentially life-saving care or being forcibly removed from their car and abducted like Portland resident Juan Sebastian Carvajal-Munoz was six days ago. Nobody should feel unsafe sitting in a hospital bed, uncertain of if they will be taken away from the life that they know after they are discharged from the hospital (or even during their hospitalization).

Nurses reject the presence of ICE In our hospitals. We reject the terror that they cause to our patients and coworkers. I urge you to vote in favor of this legislation and require hospitals to have a clear policy and right to protect patients and the healthcare workers that serve them.