

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council; and

WHEREAS, hospitals, clinics, and other healthcare facilities exist to provide safe, confidential, and compassionate medical care to all patients regardless of immigration status; and

WHEREAS, healthcare providers are bound by ethical and legal obligations, including the Hippocratic Oath and federal privacy laws such as the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), to protect patient privacy and ensure medical decisions are made solely in the best interests of the patient; and

WHEREAS, immigration detention is civil in nature, not criminal, and individuals in immigration custody retain the same patient rights as all other patients, including the right to privacy, access to counsel, communication with family members, and freedom to make independent medical decision-making; and

WHEREAS, reports from healthcare professionals across California describe situations that undermine medical ethics and jeopardize patient health and safety, such as when federal immigration agents remain inside patient rooms, interfere with treatment decisions, or pressure providers regarding discharge planning; and

WHEREAS, the presence of armed immigration enforcement agents in hospitals and emergency departments can create an atmosphere of fear for patients, families, and healthcare workers, discouraging individuals from seeking necessary medical care and thereby threatening public health; and

WHEREAS, policies developed by healthcare institutions and public agencies emphasize that immigration enforcement officers should not enter private patient care areas without a valid judicial warrant and should not remain present during examinations, treatment, or medical consultations in order to protect patient privacy and the integrity of care; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles has long affirmed its commitment to ensuring that all residents, regardless of immigration status, can safely access critical services, including emergency medical care, without fear of enforcement actions in sensitive locations; and

WHEREAS, the County of Los Angeles has adopted, but has yet to implement, model policies to safeguard patient rights and support healthcare providers when individuals detained by federal immigration authorities receive medical care, including provisions that allow patients to authorize


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the release of information to family members, legal counsel, and appropriate governmental representatives, including Members of Congress; and

WHEREAS, these policies further establish procedures requiring healthcare personnel to verify and document the identity of any law enforcement officials accompanying detained patients and direct staff to request that immigration enforcement agents are absent from patient care areas when necessary to protect patient privacy, comply with federal and state confidentiality laws, or allow patients to rest, while documenting any refusal by such agents to comply; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2025-2026 State and Federal Legislative Programs SUPPORT for Legislation and/or Administrative Action which would strengthen protections for patients and healthcare providers from immigration enforcement actions in healthcare environments by establishing clear policies governing interactions between healthcare facilities and federal immigration enforcement, including safeguards to protect patient privacy, comply with federal and state medical confidentiality laws, and limit immigration enforcement activity within patient care areas except where required by a valid judicial warrant.

PRESENTED BY 
YSABEL JURADO
Councilmember, 14th District

SECONDED BY 

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