

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS HILDA L. SOLIS

September 30, 2025

AND HOLLY J. MITCHELL

Protecting Immigrants’ Rights to Health Care Access: SB 81 Implementation in LA County

With increased immigration enforcement throughout California, especially in Los Angeles County, the presence of immigration enforcement agents has become much more prevalent in medical facilities. There have been several accounts of immigration enforcement agents in emergency rooms and lobbies while patients in immigration custody receive health care services, or as immigration enforcement engages in efforts to detain individuals inside medical facilities. Ensuring that immigrant patients feel safe and comfortable while seeking health services is critical to promoting their well-being and dignity. No one should avoid seeking necessary care and services out of fear. Unfortunately, this has become the new reality for many of the County’s immigrant residents.

On September 20, 2025, Governor Newsom affirmed the State’s commitment to protecting the rights, health, and dignity of immigrants throughout the State, by signing Senate Bill (SB) 81, authored by Senator Arreguín, into law. SB 81 requires that healthcare providers designate nonpublic areas to ensure that healthcare facilities

MOTION

Solis	_____
Mitchell	_____
Horvath	_____
Hahn	_____
Barger	_____

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS HILDA L. SOLIS

September 30, 2025

AND HOLLY J. MITCHELL

Protecting Immigrants' Rights to Health Care Access: SB 81 Implementation in LA County

continue to be places community members are able to access safely. SB 81 also updates the definition of medical information to include immigration status and place of birth, to further safeguard the personal information of immigrant patients. SB 81 also prohibits the disclosure of medical information for immigration enforcement absent a valid judicial search warrant or court order.

Although the County has a Sensitive Locations policy which in many ways aligns with SB 81, SB 81 offers additional protections to medical providers, facilities, and health care workers who may find themselves needing to interact with immigration enforcement and advocate for patient's rights. SB 81 requires that health care provider entities comply with its provisions within 45 days. Additionally, County facilities have developed distinct policies in consultation with County Counsel for providing health services to individuals in immigration custody and engaging with immigration enforcement, and further standardization may be necessary. As SB 81 is being implemented, departments should also identify opportunities to further standardize policies.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Departments of Health Services, Mental Health, and Public Health, in collaboration with the Chief Executive Office's Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations Branch, and the Office of Immigrant Affairs, and in consultation with County Counsel, SEIU 721, other labor partners, and relevant stakeholders to report back in writing in 30 days on the

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS HILDA L. SOLIS

September 30, 2025

AND HOLLY J. MITCHELL

Protecting Immigrants' Rights to Health Care Access: SB 81 Implementation in LA County

implementation of SB 81, including any policy changes as a result of the legislation and additional advocacy that may be necessary.

WE, FURTHER, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Departments of Health Services, Mental Health, and Public Health, County Counsel, and the Office of Immigrant Affairs, and in consultation with SEIU 721, other labor partners, and relevant stakeholders to report back in writing in 30 days on opportunities to further standardize policies across facilities as they relate to providing health services to immigrant patients and/or treating patients in immigration custody by law enforcement. Policies should comply with the law while protecting patients' rights, and should include but not be limited to the following:

- Visitation rules for family members and/or other authorized individuals;
- Ensuring privacy protections according to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and Confidentiality of Medical Information Act (CMIA), including when providing health services to a patient in immigration custody;
- Training for hospital workers who have to make difficult decisions regarding providing adequate patient care while avoiding what may be considered as obstruction of justice.

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS HILDA L. SOLIS

September 30, 2025

AND HOLLY J. MITCHELL

**Protecting Immigrants' Rights to Health Care Access: SB 81 Implementation in LA
County**

HLS:jgd