

Dear Members of the House Committee On Judiciary, I write today to urge you to pass the Sanctuary. I worked as a community health nurse with immigrant communities for over 20 years. I came to know hundreds of immigrant families and learned what hard working people they were. My patients came to Oregon for work and for a better life for their families. They worked in agriculture in growing and harvesting our food but also in so many other industries who depend on immigrant labor. The women often worked as care givers in nursing homes, hotel maids or in vegetable and fruit processing. Many of the men worked in fish canneries, forest industries, the dairy industry and of course in the restaurant industry. Few employers who depend on immigrant labor are willing to step forward and say so because of course doing so is admitting to a crime. But they depend on these workers. Calling immigrant workers criminals is correct only in the sense that they have broken laws by coming here and working here. But I ask each member of our legislature to look in their soul and honestly ask themselves; if you were unfortunate enough to be born in a poor dangerous Central American country and you saw your kids go to bed hungry too many nights or you could not buy them shoes or school supplies or if you had seen your family threatened by dangerous gangs would you take a chance and come to America to find work? I know I would. Please do something to stop these families from fear deportation every time they go to work.