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Dear Chair Bynum and members of the committee,

I write to you today to urge you to pass HB 3265, The Sanctuary Promise Act. This piece of legislation will get us closer to a horizon in which all Oregonians feel their families are safe, secure and protected. As a person whose faith is rooted in the Christian tradition, I hold deeply in my heart that our policies must center the humanity in all of us and speak to the path set out for us by Jesus Christ. This piece of legislature does that by expanding our decades-old Sanctuary law so that more people in my community feel safe from unfair harassment and profiling going to work, going to get groceries, or driving to their places of worship.

I care about this bill because I am the daughter and granddaughter of immigrants who came here in the early part of the 20th century and met with very similar prejudice and violence that immigrants to our country still experience today. My family brought with them a desire for sanctuary from poverty and facism. The struggles and concerns of today's immigrants puts me in mind of the struggles and concerns of those I have loved. I wish to add my voice in the support of the bill and the people it will protect.

As a leader in the Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice (IMIRJ), I am part of a network of people of faith and fierce love who have accompanied community members as they've navigated an immigration system that separates families and tears communities apart. While it can often be hard to see as we navigate language in a bill, this law is really about people and communities together ensuring that all Oregonians feel safer. I urge you to pass HB 3265.

Thank you for your work and attention,

Concetta Mangiaracina Buckner