

Georgia Moulton
Member of the Unitarian Universalists of Grants Pass
Grants Pass, Oregon 97527

March 22, 2021

RE: In support of HB 3265

Dear Chair Bynum and members of the Judiciary Committee,

Today I'm writing to urge you to pass The Sanctuary Promise Act (HB 3265). This legislation will move Oregon closer to a place where all Oregonians can feel that their families are safe, secure and protected. As a person whose faith is rooted in the Unitarian Universalist tradition, I am deeply committed to the idea that our governmental policies must recognize the inherent worth and dignity of every person. We must also strive for justice, equity and compassion in all human interactions throughout our society.

This piece of legislation does that by expanding our decades-old Sanctuary law, filling its gaps and correcting its omissions. Thereby enabling more people in my community to feel safe from unfair harassment and profiling while going to work, performing routine activities, or driving to and from their places of worship.

The reason I care so much about this bill is that after working for years with our local Womens Crisis Support Team, I've known women who were afraid to come forward to get a restraining order against an abuser for fear of being apprehended and/or deported. They feared this would mean separation from their children, or worse, leaving them in the hands of their abusive father or step-father. Fears like these can be crippling to young women who struggle with English, and don't understand much about how systems work in our communities.

As a constituent, living in Rep. Lily Morgan's district, I am aware that a few of my neighbors do not support this legislation. However, I am writing to share that I am part of an active network of people of faith who are committed to working with immigrants in our community as they navigate a complex immigration system that all too often separates families and tears communities apart. This law is really about respecting people and communities. By working together we can ensure that all Oregonians feel safer. I urge you to pass HB 3265.

Thank you for your work and attention to this important issue,

Georgia Moulton