

## John Hummel District Attorney

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March 23, 2021

Representative Janelle Bynum, Chair  
Representative Ron Noble, Vice Chair  
Representative Karin Power, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Judiciary

RE: HB 3265

Dear Chair Bynum, Vice-Chairs Noble and Power, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary:

My name is John Hummel and I serve as district attorney of Deschutes County. I was elected to keep the people of Deschutes County safe. Community safety is my number one goal every day when I come to work and it is why I'm urging you to support House Bill 3265, also known as the Sanctuary Promise Act.

Oregon's sanctuary law is the nation's oldest and it has formed part of our state identity for 30 years. When the law was passed in 1987 it received near unanimous support from both Republicans and Democrats. It is a critical law that aims to ensure trust between the community and law enforcement.

Anyone who is a witness to or victim of a crime should feel empowered to come forward and report what they know. This happens in Deschutes County because we've devoted time and energy to establishing a trusting relationship with the public. We've worked hard to create a culture where people feel safe working with local law enforcement regardless of their immigration status. The trusting relationship we've established with the public allows local law enforcement officers and attorneys in my office to hold people accountable when they commit harm.

When law enforcement agencies share information and cooperate with federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents to target and arrest Oregonians, it puts that hard-earned trust at risk. This practice impacts the safety of all Oregonians.

For example, survivors of domestic violence have to make heart-wrenching decisions regarding whether to report their abusers to the police. If they report, they do so for their kids and themselves and in turn they are helped by the attorneys and victims' advocates in my office who are uniquely trained and qualified to do so. I've seen women who are absolutely terrified to call the police and seek accountability. Their courage makes our whole community safer, but continued collusion between ICE and local law enforcement and courthouses means that victims and survivors are less likely to report crime and find pathways to safety and healing.

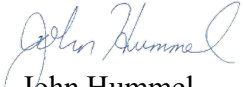
The Sanctuary Promise Act fills the gap between the protection that Oregonians want and believe our laws provide, and what the reality is today by:

- Strengthening Oregon's sanctuary laws
- Creating a private right of action
- Prohibiting public and private ICE detention contracts

- Prohibiting warrantless arrests at Oregon's courthouses
- Preventing racial profiling in our jails

In 2018, Oregon voters overwhelmingly voted to keep Oregon's sanctuary law. Now the 2021 Legislature can update it to ensure that we continue to protect Oregon families and preserve local resources. I urge your support of HB 3265.

Sincerely,



John Hummel  
District Attorney