

Christine J. Lentz
St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church parishioner
Portland, Oregon 97214
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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 state 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 honor and uphold the dignity of every human being. My faith calls me to welcome the stranger, give help, shelter and compassion to those in need. This piece of legislation 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 have sat in courtrooms and stood in front of ICE buildings, watching the disgraceful treatment of families who face having their loved ones ripped from their arms. I listened to bullies screaming at the people who were calmly waiting in line their ghastly fate. I watched in horror as a man was brought into a courtroom in chains; he was seeking the opportunity to remain with his family with two young children. He was not going to run anywhere. He wanted to live the life of integrity and freedom in Portland with his family. There was nothing humane about these experiences and I felt ashamed to be an American. This is not the American I know.

HB 3265 comes so much closer to ensuring and honoring the dignity and human rights of ALL people. I want to know members of my community can travel safely, come to church with me, participate without fear.

As a leader in the Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice (IMIJ), I am part of a network of people of faith who have accompanied community members as they've navigated an immigration system that separates families and tears communities apart. I urge you to pass HB 3265. It is about people and communities.

Thank you for your work and attention,
Christine J. Lentz