

Hjalmer Lofstrom St. Michael & All Angels, Episcopal, 3109 NE 28th. Ave. Portland Oregon, 97212  
03/23/2021

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 humanity in all of us]. My Baptismal Covenant asks this of me: That I see and serve Christ in all persons, loving my neighbor as myself; that I strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being. 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.

As a leader in the Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice (IMIJ), I care about this bill because I have marched from Sheridan Federal Prison to the NORCOR in The Dalles in support of detained immigrants, and have accompanied them to the Hatfield Federal Court, and to the NW Detention Center in Tacoma. My friends are Dreamers, hard-working service industry employees, self-employed, law-abiding, volunteers in their communities, schools, and churches. The current immigration system 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,  
Hjalmer Lofstrom