

March 24, 2021

To Representatives Leon, Pham, Campos and Senator Gorsek,

My name is Catherine Bax. I am retired from Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center, where I worked as a Physician Assistant. I am also a member of St Andrew Catholic Church in Northeast Portland. Thank you so much for sponsoring HB3265.

34 years ago Oregonians voted for our state to be a sanctuary state. Then in 2018 we voted to keep Oregon as a sanctuary state. These last several years have made it obvious that even with this voter approved and reapproved sanctuary law, Oregonians are not protected from racial profiling and our local police and resources are routinely being used for federal immigration enforcement. The toll this racial profiling and war on immigrants takes on our community is enormous and unnecessary. For me it has been at once heartbreaking and infuriating to see the stress and fear caused by the random raids and threat of raids to the immigrant families seeking health care at Virginia Garcia or participating in our community at St Andrew. This fear and stress not only affect the parents and older children in these families. Imagine preparing your 6 year-old daughter for the everyday possibility that ICE might knock on the door or that one or both of her parents might not come home from work. Oregonians know this is wrong and have voted twice to not participate as a state in supporting the federal government cruel and unnecessary system.

Thank you again for sponsoring HB3265.

Sincerely,

Catherine Bax

Portland, Oregon