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Dear Chairman Bynum and members of the committee,

I am a member of West Hills Unitarian Universalist Fellowship and a leader in the Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice. I write to you today to urge you to pass HB 3265, The Sanctuary Promise Act.

I have always been proud of Oregon for its "first in the nation" Sanctuary Bill, over 30 years old. Recently, however, I have come to realize that it has many shortcomings and is not functioning the way it ideally should. In particular, I know for a fact that ICE is making warrant-less arrests in and near county courthouses, which is totally contrary to the spirit of the law. I have had the opportunity to accompany both documented and undocumented immigrants to the courthouse for a variety of reasons and have witnessed first-hand the fear and trepidation that being there causes them. It is my opinion that, in this country, no one – citizen or not – should be afraid to enter or be near a public building. Public buildings – and officials – are there to keep you safe, not terrify you for no good reason.

This piece of legislation will get us closer to a horizon in which all Oregonians feel their families are safe, secure and protected. I urge you to pass HB 3265.

Thank you for your work and attention.

Linda M Smith