

Angie Aldrich
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Member of Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice
Portland, Oregon 97213

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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 horizon in which all Oregonians feel their families are safe, secure and protected. As a person whose faith is rooted in the United Church of Christ faith tradition of welcoming all and seeking justice for all, I hold deeply in my heart that welcoming the stranger is more than words and must be backed with works. This piece of legislature does that by expanding our decades-old Sanctuary law so that more people in my community feel safe from unfair harassment and profiling while going to work, going to get groceries, or driving to their places of worship, every day activities most of us take for granted.

I have interacted with people who immigrated here and seen the value they bring with them. I see the hope and the fear they carry with them. I welcome the diversity that comes from having neighbors with different cultures. I believe that diversity makes our country better. As an active member in the Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice (IMIJ) and the Bridgeport UCC Justice and Witness team, I am part of a network of people of faith that advocate for community members as they've navigated an immigration system that separates families and tears communities apart. I have advocated for our immigrant neighbors to our Oregon legislature, have stood up in protest when I have seen injustice to our neighbors happen. Passage of this law will keep people and communities together ensuring that all Oregonians feel safer. It is the right thing to do and I urge you to pass HB 3265.

Thank you for your service and your time,
Angela Aldrich