

Gillian Butler
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Dear Chair Bynum and members of the committee,

I am writing today to urge you to pass HB3265, the Sanctuary Promise Act. This piece of legislation will make our state a safer place for all community members. As a member of St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal church, I have accompanied members of our immigrant community to court, check ins, and attorney visits. I understand some of the struggles they face. Many have lived in Oregon for more than 20 years and are valued members of our community. This proposed legislation would increase their safety as they go about their lives and contribute to our culture and life here in Oregon.

I care deeply about this bill. I have seen what happens when families are torn apart by deportation or detention. The children (many of whom are US citizens) suffer. I also worked for many years as a 9-1-1 dispatcher and supervisor. I know how important it is for law enforcement to have the trust of community members. Domestic violence victims need to feel that they can call for help without worrying about being detained themselves or deported. Witnesses need to feel safe enough to come forward to help law enforcement solve crimes.

As a member of the Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice (IMIJ), I am part of a network of people of faith who are standing strong with our immigrant brothers and sisters. HB3265 would be a big step in the right direction. I urge you to support this legislation.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Gillian Butler