



March 24, 2021

Oregon House of Representatives
Salem, Oregon 97301
House Committee on Judiciary

Dear Chair Bynum, Vice-Chairs Noble and Power, and Members of the Committee:

The Oregon National Organization for Women (Oregon NOW) supports HB 3265, a bill that would help transform the intent of Oregonians with respect to sanctuary for immigrants into reality.

In 2018 Oregon NOW, along with a significant majority of Oregonians, opposed Measure 105, a ballot measure that would have repealed our sanctuary state law. HB 3265 closes loopholes in the existing Oregon statute. It provides specific protections that allow immigrant residents to interact fully in legal proceedings, as witnesses, plaintiffs, or defendants, for example, without fear of being intercepted by immigration enforcement agents during those proceedings or in transit to or from those proceedings. Access to the legal system is essential for women seeking protections against domestic violence. No person in Oregon should be forced to make a choice between protecting their physical and mental well-being and possible deportation proceedings.

We also strongly support the inclusion in HB 3265 of the right to take civil action against public agencies that fail to enforce the provisions of this law. The threat of action will encourage law enforcement agencies at all levels of government to strictly enforce the provisions of the law.

Please support HB 3265. Thank you!

Respectfully,

Christine Chin Ryan
President, Oregon NOW

H. Rebecca Callison
Legislative Chair, Oregon NOW