

I write in support of HB 3265 because I am a pastor at First Presbyterian Church and have assisted a family who lived in fear because this kind of protection was not in place.

This father in this family was in process of gaining documentation in the United States, but was under threat of deportation. The family therefore had to live in fear of basic contact with public officials, including the police. The church assisted them with funds for utilities on two occasions, and one of our congregation members was a personal friend to the family. Fortunately this man's situation has been de-escalated, and they no longer live under hypervigilance. But for many others in our community -- including children in our schools and churches -- that is not the case.

Additionally, the potential for privatized incarceration of immigrants creates a for-profit motive to maximize incarceration for non-violent offenders. This cannot be allowed to be our way of life in the United States and especially not in Oregon. Please support this legislation to ensure that all Oregonians can feel safe and confident in approaching public officials including police officers when they are in time of need.