



A STRONG VOICE FOR OREGON'S WORKERS

TO: Chair Bynum
Vice-Chairs Noble & Power
Members of the House Judiciary Committee

FR: Jacob Finkelman, OR AFL-CIO

RE: HB 3265, Support for Strengthening Oregon's Sanctuary Law

March 23, 2021

The Oregon AFL-CIO represents 300,000 workers across Oregon and is a voice for all workers in the legislative process, including workers of all nationalities and citizenship statuses. The Oregon AFL-CIO strongly supports HB 3265 to protect Oregonian families and preserve local resources. As members of the Fair Shot Coalition, we support this policy as part of our ongoing effort to achieve racial and immigrant justice.

HB 3265 protects Oregonians from racial profiling and ensures that Oregon police and local resources will not be used for federal immigration enforcement. Oregon's Sanctuary law is the oldest in the nation. Despite the 34-year-old law, state collaboration and coordination with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to target Oregonians based on their perceived immigration status still occurs and significantly impacts the safety and wellbeing of all Oregonians.

Immigrant Oregonians are part of our families, communities and are critical workers in our economy. 1 in 8 workers in Oregon is an immigrant -- many of whom have continued to work round-the-clock during COVID-19 to keep food on our tables, to care for our loved ones, and to keep our economy running.¹ And they too should be safe from unfair harassment and profiling. Every Oregon worker and their families deserve to be treated as humans and equals under the law, and deserve equal protection. HB 3265 is an opportunity for us to strengthen the law and protect Oregon families and preserve local resources.

HB 3265 simply strengthens our current sanctuary law. By clearly prohibiting local law enforcement and governments from working with and communicating with federal agents for the purpose of immigration enforcement, the bill will create greater clarity and disentanglement, and help build stronger trust from Oregon's immigrant communities. When a law is violated, the bill allows community members to seek accountability. It also prohibits detention contracts and private detention centers, and protects Oregon's justice system by enshrining into law the current state court rule that prohibits warrantless civil arrests in and around courthouses.

Although our sanctuary law is the nation's oldest, ICE agents continue to target and arrest our workers and community members. This destroys local community trust, tears apart Oregon families, and makes all of us less safe.

¹ <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/immigrants-oregon>

Here in Oregon, we can't fix the federal immigration system, but we can strengthen the law that protects Oregonians from racial profiling and contributes to a thriving economy and thriving communities where people are treated with dignity.

In 2018, Oregon voters overwhelmingly voted in favor of Oregon's sanctuary law. Now the 2021 Legislature can make it stronger, to protect Oregon families and preserve local resources. We urge your YES vote on HB 3265.