

**Mrs. Thea Simpson
103 Eureka Ave
Silverton, Oregon 97381**

March 23, 2021

Dear Chair Bynum and members of the committee,

As a constituent of Rep. Rick Lewis, a Mom, and small business owner in Silverton, OR, I write to you today to urge you to pass HB 3265, The Sanctuary Promise Act. Despite continued and clear public policy decisions that reaffirm our sanctuary status and seek to keep Oregon institutions separate from the federal immigrant detention and deportation regime, state and local government agencies across Oregon routinely share information and cooperate and collaborate with ICE agents to target and arrest our neighbors in Oregon. This piece of legislation fills the gap between the protection Oregonians have voted for by rejecting Ballot Measure 105 in 2019 and believe our laws provide, and our current reality. I want ALL Oregonians to feel their families are safe, secure and protected. As a parent and a person of faith, I hold deeply in my heart that all humans deserve respect and kindness, and that our state and local policies must center on the humanity in all of us. This piece of legislation does that by expanding our decades-old Sanctuary law so that more people in my community feel safe from unfair harassment and profiling going to work, going to get groceries, or driving to their places of worship.

I care about this bill as a Mom and as a community member of a rural agricultural small town. Countless members of my community are farm workers and employees at BrucePac. Racial profiling and harassment of my neighbors hurts me and hurts my town's economy. Regardless of immigration status, no family should live in fear of being torn apart and placed in prison camps. It is inhumane. I don't want my neighbors living in fear. It is not the kind of environment I want my son, or anyone else's child, to grow up in. I am calling on you as lawmakers to set an example for our youth of tolerance, kindness, cooperation, and

compassion. I believe God wants us to remember our shared humanity and have compassion for ALL of our Oregon neighbors, regardless of immigration status.

As a leader in the Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice (IMIrJ), I am part of a network of people of faith and fierce love who have assisted and witnessed community members as they've navigated an immigration system that separates families and tears communities apart. This law is really about keeping people and communities together, ensuring that ALL Oregonians feel safer. I urge you to pass HB 3265.

Thank you for your work and attention,

Mrs. Thea Simpson