

HB3265 Testimony of Nancy Greenman 3.24.21

Chair Bynum, Vice-Chairs Noble and Power, and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

My name is Nancy Greenman and I live in Albany. I am writing as a private, retired Oregonian in support of HB 3265, The Sanctuary Promise Act.

For ten years I worked coordinating a grant fund that supported non-profit domestic violence/sexual assault programs serving every Oregon county. I saw first-hand, across our state, the critical importance of victims and survivors feeling safe to reach out to our state and local agencies in securing safety for themselves, their families, and communities. And I saw what happens when members of the immigrant community fear that seeking help could lead to harm for themselves or their loved ones. When people are afraid to call 911, to testify in court, or seek other state or county agency services for fear that it will put them or their loved ones into the hands of ICE, our ability to keep our entire community healthy and safe is jeopardized. Conversely, when people feel secure and protected in reaching out, our local and state systems function as they are meant to.

For thirty years, our state sanctuary law has worked to keep our communities whole and safe. Oregonians acknowledged this when they overwhelmingly upheld the law in 2018. The years have also shown the gaps that HB3265 is designed to address and resolve. It gives our law enforcement agencies, jails and courts clear and unequivocal guidance; and it builds in accountability through a private right to action. It keeps Oregon resources out of the morass of our broken federal immigration law and focused on what we do well – taking care of our families, our neighbors and our communities.

As a child, when I asked my four grandparents for stories about their growing up in Eastern Europe, they each answered only, “It is better here.” It was much better for my family, and HB3265 can make it better for others, as well.

Thank you,
Nancy Greenman