

Representative Janelle Bynum, Chair

Representative Karin Power, Vice-Chair

Representative Sherrie Sprenger, Vice-Chair

Members of the Oregon House Committee on Judiciary

Hilary Mar Lopez Nichols, Health Equity Community Organizer

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 3265 - Sanctuary Promise Act.

I serve as a community organizer for health equity at a community health center in SE Portland, which means that the patients that I work with experience a high degree of social needs (such as food, housing, legal, etc.) that impact their health. As a community organizer, I work with our patients and community leaders to support the institutional policies and laws that will mitigate the impacts of racism, classism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, ableism, xenophobia, and white supremacy that negatively affect health.

I urge you to support HB 3265 because it strengthens Oregon's 34-year-old sanctuary law by, 1) creating a private right of action, 2) prohibiting public and private ICE detention contracts, 3) prohibiting warrantless arrests at Oregon's courthouses, and 4) preventing racial profiling in our jails.

My mom is an immigrant from Cuba, and so civil and human rights for immigrants and undocumented people is incredibly important to me. I have witnessed firsthand how fear of ICE and law enforcement, and the vulnerabilities that come with being an immigrant in our society, can negatively impact an individual's health by adding chronic stress that contributes to chronic illness. HB 3265 will not only strengthen Oregon's sanctuary law but will also make a huge impact on the health of our immigrant communities by providing more security, reducing stress, and eliminating barriers to seeking healthcare.

We are blessed to have such a large community of immigrants in Oregon who contribute immensely to our state's economy, culture, and spirit. By supporting HB 3265, you have an opportunity to be a true leader in codifying the kind of respect and protection that immigrant Oregonians deserve.

Thank you for your time and for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 3265. Please support this critical bill which, if passed, will ensure the protections that Oregonians believe they have under our current law will be a reality.

Sincerely,

Hilary Mar Lopez Nichols, Health Equity Community Organizer