

March 25, 2021

House Judiciary Committee
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

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

My name is Isidro Andrade-Tafolla, I'm a resident of Washington County. As I am unable to attend the hearing today, I have recorded video testimony at <https://youtu.be/fDx9h9IBDPs>.

I'm writing today to urge you to support the Sanctuary Promise Act to reaffirm that we're all Oregonians, no matter where we were born or what we look like. We have a responsibility to keep our local and state governments from contributing to the harms created by the federal immigration system.

Despite Oregon's long-standing sanctuary law, state and local law enforcement agencies across Oregon still routinely share information and cooperate with federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents to target and arrest Oregonians. The Sanctuary Promise Act fills the gap between the protection that Oregonians want and believe our laws provide, and what the reality is today.

I have personal experience with the harm caused when ICE racially profiles Oregonians. In 2017, I was accompanying my wife to the Washington County courthouse when I was illegally detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents. I am a U.S. citizen, yet those agents made it clear that ICE believed, because of the color of my skin, that I did not belong here. I will never forget that day and the painful mark it has left on my life. I feel like I am living it every day and can't get away from it. It hit me really hard and it was obviously wrong. No one should have to go through this.

I am not alone in my experience. That traumatic event is just one example among many that show a pattern of tactics used by ICE that undermines Oregonians' right to justice. ICE has repeatedly used the court system to target immigrants who need to make court appearances, who are supporting family members through legal proceedings or who are being released from local jails.

When jails coordinate with ICE, it chips away at community trust, further discouraging members of our community from seeking justice and making all of us less safe. That's why we need the Sanctuary Promise Act. It would strengthen Oregon's sanctuary laws, prohibit warrantless arrests at Oregon's courthouses and prevent racial profiling in our jails.

With these protections in place, Oregon would be living up to its ideals where immigrants are valued members of the Oregon community. I am speaking out because I don't want my children to go through what I have gone through. Ultimately, my hope is that with the passage of the

Sanctuary Promise Act, Oregonians will be safe from the unfair harassment and profiling that I experienced, no matter what they look like or how they came here.

I urge you to support the Sanctuary Promise Act.

Thank you,

Isidro Andrade-Tafolla