



# Oregon Pediatric Society

A Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Incorporated in Oregon

DATE: March 24, 2021

TO: Honorable Representative Janelle Bynum, Chair  
Representatives Noble and Power, Vice Chairs  
and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Alanna Braun, MD, FAAP  
Oregon Pediatric Society Board President

SUBJECT: Support for HB 3265 – Strengthening Oregon's Sanctuary Law

For the record, my name is Alanna Braun, MD, and I am a pediatrician and the board president of the Oregon Pediatric Society, the state chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. As a general pediatrician, I care for children in immigrant families and started my career working in a safety net farmworker clinic. I write today in strong support of HB 3265, which the OPS board of directors also voted to support.

I have had conversations with countless families that have become sadly more and more necessary, as their immigration status, or that of a loved one, became a source of extreme anxiety. When boundaries and expectations around law enforcement are unclear, people become afraid – afraid to go to the grocery store, or even to the hospital for emergencies. The fear alone of possible family separation, the essential disappearance of a loved one, can cause significant mental health problems in the other family members, including children.

I urge you to consider what a family must be feeling as they beseech their family physicians to write letters explaining why their children need their father there, or their mother. Why their medical care in the U.S. is important to medically fragile children, and how no one should have to choose between being together as a family and having access to the care they need to be well. I wrote such a letter for a father of a family where the mother was undergoing cancer treatments and her daughter was experiencing significant anxiety over her mother's cancer and her father's possible deportation. He carried the letter with him because he feared he might be stopped while doing errands or on his way to work because of his accent or the color of his skin.

The strengthening of our current status as a Sanctuary State will help prevent racial profiling in some aspects of law enforcement, and prevent unnecessary harm to many Oregon families. Oregon children and Oregon families deserve to be safe. Please vote yes for HB 3265.