

I write in support of HB 3265, the Sanctuary Promise Act.

I come from a long line of Lutheran pastors, am married to a Jewish man, and am raising my children to know both these faith traditions. As an organizer with the Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice, I have the opportunity on a daily basis to connect with and work alongside people of many different faith traditions. For me - like for many people of faith - the notion of Sanctuary holds both spiritual and political connotations.

At a fundamental level, Sanctuary is about belonging and security. It's about feeling safe enough to breathe deep, to laugh, rest, worship, and play. Safe enough to simply be. Unfortunately, the threat of racial profiling, harassment, detention, and separation from one's family are still very real for many Oregonians -- including members of my own household, and countless friends and neighbors.

The federal immigration enforcement regime creates fear, harm and lasting trauma in our communities. I've grieved alongside a friend whose nursing baby was taken from her arms during an early morning ICE raid in a Portland suburb - a raid aided and abetted by local law enforcement. I've held space for the stories and heartache of several of my neighbors faced with the daunting task of rebuilding their lives and families upon the deportation of a family member. I've accompanied a survivor of domestic violence presented with impossible choices because of the fear of ICE. This is not the Oregon I love, and it's not the Oregon that an overwhelming majority of our state's voters asked for when they voted in 2018 to uphold Oregon's 34-year-old Sanctuary law.

HB 3265 is an opportunity for our state to make good on our decades-old promise of Sanctuary - and get us closer to the safer, more welcoming and inclusive Oregon we all deserve.

I urge you to vote YES on HB 3265.