



2/25/2021

**To:** House Judiciary Committee

**RE:** Testimony in Support of HB 3265

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

For the record, my name is Bridget Cooke, and I am the Executive Director at Adelante Mujeres, which means “Women Rise Up”. We strongly support **HB 3265**, The Sanctuary Promise Act, because we believe that all Oregonians, regardless of their immigration history, should be treated with dignity and respect.

As a nonprofit organization in Washington County, Adelante Mujeres’ mission is to provide holistic education and empowerment opportunities to low-income Latina women and their families to ensure full participation and active leadership in the community.

Nonetheless, our mission is not possible when immigrant women and their families live in fear due to immigration policies that lead to family separation, which is often the case as in this story I’ll share with you of a local family whose son was detained by ICE the same day he was going to be released from the local jail. ICE transferred him to the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma. Months later he was deported, and the family was permanently separated, not realizing that their last goodbye was the night he was arrested.

After a painful year, the mother still breaks down when talking about her son. She knows he faces serious adversity in his new home, including not being able to find stable work. Her son, who came to the US as a small child, made a mistake. He made a mistake just like many young people do. However, the consequences for him, unlike what happens to most young people when they mess up, were devastating.

This example is one of many with long-term catastrophic impacts on individuals, families, and the community. The fact that he was detained by ICE at a local jail and later deported points to what is wrong with how Oregon treats its Oregonian immigrants and how community members are left feeling unsafe.

By strengthening our state’s sanctuary law, we can make Oregon a place that is truly safe and welcoming to all. **We urge you to vote YES on HB 3265.**

Sincerely,

Bridget Cooke, Executive Director, Adelante Mujeres  
bcooke@adelantemujeres.org