

Testimony in Support of HB 3265
Rita Schenkelberg, Bend City Councilor
March 25, 2021

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

Rita Schenkelberg, Bend City Councilor strongly supports HB 3265 to protect Oregonian families and preserve local resources.

During my campaign for city councilor, City of Bend took a stand against ICE and Custom and Border patrol. The residents of Bend said no more to taking our residents to detentions and ripping families apart. These individuals are Oregonians and residents in our city. This event has impacted our city as we watched the residents who were standing in front of the ICE buses being pepper sprayed and beaten by custom and border patrol. These residents who were taken by custom and border patrol have lived in Central Oregon for many years. They work and contribute to our community and our economy. They should not have to live in fear, and neither should their families.

The Sanctuary Promise Act will safeguard families in Oregon. If we had The Sanctuary Promise Act the residents who have not been taken out of the state and separated from their families. These families would not have to travel to Tacoma, Washington to support their parents, children, and partners. These residents will be protected and feel like they have action they can take to protect instead of feeling at the mercy of the authorities. They can seek out due process. They could have accessed legal counsel. The prohibition of private detention center is necessary to create safety for immigrants and residents of this country.

The Sanctuary Promise Act will protect the residents of Bend. This act could help build trust with authorities and rebuild faith in our communities. Oregon's sanctuary law was an important first step and the Sanctuary Promise Act creates more detailed actions to support immigrants and residents of this country. The Sanctuary Promise Act protects Oregonians from racial profiling and ensures that local police and resources will not be used for federal immigration enforcement. The Sanctuary Promise act is creating actions to say no to families separated, saying no to children without parent, and say no to living in fear. The Sanctuary Promise Act combats racial profiling and encourages authorities to do the work around their own implicit bias.

In 2018, Oregon voters overwhelmingly voted in favor of Oregon's sanctuary law. Now the 2021 Legislature can make it stronger, to protect Oregon families and preserve local resources. **We urge your YES vote on HB 3265.**

In Solidarity,

Rita Schenkelberg, Bend City Councilor

