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Dear Chair Bynum and members of the committee,

I write to you today to urge you to pass HB 3265, The Sanctuary Promise Act. This piece of legislation will get us closer to a horizon in which all Oregonians feel their families are safe, secure and protected. As a person whose faith is rooted in Catholic and Latinx traditions, I hold these humble folks who work, study and dwell in my heart. This piece of legislation does that by expanding our decades-old Sanctuary law so that more people in my community feel safe from unfair harassment and profiling going to work, going to get groceries, or driving to their places of worship.

I care about this bill because my ancestry is filled with immigrants to the US arriving from Costa Rica. As a teacher for Beaverton Public Schools, I have known dozens of families whose lives have been upended and even destroyed by unexpected detentions. I've heard of people being sent to detention out of state solely based upon a broken tail light. People who are caught up in the system are leaving children and relatives in the lurch to cry and to suffer through it all.

As a leader in the Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice (IMIJ), I am part of a network of people of faith and fierce love who have accompanied community members as they've navigated an immigration system that separates families and tears communities apart. While it can often be hard to see as we navigate language in a bill, this law is really about people and communities together ensuring that all Oregonians feel safer. I urge you to pass HB 3265.

Thank you for your work and your thorough pursuit of the public interest,

James Scott McClain