

Rev. Chris Dela Cruz
Westminster Presbyterian Church
1624 NE Hancock
Portland, OR 97212

March 25, 2021

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 the Christian Presbyterian tradition, how we structure the laws and policies of our society are direct reflections on how we affirm the dignity and humanity of us all. This piece of legislation expands 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 am the proud children of Filipinx immigrants who were nurses and therefore frontline workers amid this COVID disaster. We all know that immigrants are some of the most patriotic and hard-working people in this country, because of all they had to sacrifice to get here and all they are grateful for in being here. Sanctuary is a religious and spiritual term at heart. Can we afford to deny sanctuary at this critical juncture of our country's history? What kind of Oregon do you want to leave your children?

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 attention,

Rev. Chris Dela Cruz