



Service Employees International Union – Oregon State Council
6401 SE Foster ▪ Portland, OR 97206

March 25, 2021

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of **House Bill 3265 to protect Oregonian families and preserve local resources**. My name is Alberto Gallegos and I am submitting this testimony on behalf of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), Oregon. SEIU Oregon is composed of SEIU Local 503 and SEIU Local 49, which together represent over 85,000 people. Local 49 represents private sector janitors, property service workers, light manufacturing, and healthcare workers; while Local 503 represents homecare workers, private nonprofit workers, in-home childcare providers, nursing home workers, and state and local government employees.

In our union, we believe in and fight for our vision for a just society: where all workers are valued and all people respected, no matter where we are from or the color of our skin; where all families and communities can thrive; and where we leave a more just and equitable world for generations to come. Due to this, SEIU came together with other labor unions and community partners to create the Fair Shot for All Coalition in 2014. The goal of the Coalition is to fight for economic justice for Oregonians, with a focus on the disproportionate impact economic inequality has on people of color, immigrants, and women. As members of the Fair Shot For All Coalition, **we strongly support this bill as part of our ongoing work towards achieving racial and immigrant justice in Oregon.**

Some of us were fortunate enough to be born here, and some of us chose to live here. Regardless of where we were born or where we came from, we are all proud Oregonians. Immigrant Oregonians are part of our families, communities, workplaces and places of worship, and they should be safe from harassment and profiling just like any other Oregonian.

The Sanctuary Promise Act strengthens our current sanctuary law by accomplishing the following:

- **Disentanglement:** Builds trust in Oregon communities by clearly prohibiting local law enforcement and governments from working with and communicating with federal agents for the purpose of immigration enforcement.
- **Private right of action:** Allows community members to seek accountability when the law is violated.
- **Prohibition of detention contracts:** Prohibits state and local correctional facilities from contracting with the federal government for immigration detention.
- **Prohibition of private detention centers:** Prohibits private entities like for-profit corporations from operating private prisons for immigrant detention.

- **Courthouses:** Protects Oregon's justice system by enshrining into law the current state court rule that prohibits warrantless civil arrests in and around courthouses.

Oregon's sanctuary law is the nation's oldest and has formed part of our state identity for 30 years. Unfortunately, local police and resources are still being used to support federal immigration enforcement. This destroys trust in communities, tears apart Oregon families, and makes all of us less safe. The past four years have shown us just how broken the federal immigration system is. We have seen children held in border camps, families separated, and federal immigration agents making terrifying arrests in our courthouses and in our communities. Here in Oregon, we can't fix the broken federal immigration system, but we can strengthen the law that protects Oregonians from racial profiling by passing the Sanctuary Promise Act.

In 2018, Oregon voters overwhelmingly voted in favor of Oregon's sanctuary law. Now the 2021 Legislature can make it stronger in order to protect Oregon families and preserve local resources. **SEIU Oregon urges you to vote yes on HB 3265.**

Thank you,

Alberto Gallegos
Political and Government Relations Organizer
SEIU, Oregon State Council