



**Testimony in Support of HB 3265
PCUN Oregon
March 25, 2021**

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

PCUN strongly supports HB 3265 to protect Oregonian families and preserve local resources. As members of the Fair Shot Coalition, we support this policy as part of our ongoing effort for racial and immigrant justice.

At PCUN our goal is to empower farmworkers and low wage Latinx families in the Mid-Valley to improve living and working conditions. The members we represent are hailed as essential workers and perform back-breaking work to put food on the tables of all Oregonians, yet they and their family members often face the fear of harassment, detention or deportation when they step out of their homes to go to work. Regardless of documentation status, immigrant families are a part of our communities, families, workplaces and places of worship. As well as every Oregonian, immigrant families should always be protected from harm, unfair harassment and profiling.

The Sanctuary Promise Act would strengthen 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 holds the oldest sanctuary law in the nation. While this law has protected our communities for over 30 years, revision is crucial to address the systematic harm being done by local agencies. Across Oregon, state and local government agencies perpetuate severe harm to immigrant



communities through the use of Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents to target and arrest Oregonians. The widespread usage of ICE agents inflicts intergenerational wounds on entire families and communities, jeopardizes the lives of marginalized communities and makes communities unsafe for all Oregonians.

The Sanctuary Promise Act serves to modernize the scope of Oregon's sanctuary law and meet the needs of today's communities. The act will protect Oregonians from racial profiling and ensures that local police and resources will not be used for harmful federal immigration enforcement.

As our country reels from the horrors of children held in border camps, families traumatically separated, and federal immigration agents carrying out forceful arrests in our courthouses and in our communities, we need effective and humane solutions that heal our communities.

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