



March 25, 2021

Chair Janelle Bynum
Vice-Chair Ron Noble
Vice-Chair Karin Power
Members of the House Judiciary Committee

RE: HB 3265 – Sanctuary Promise Act

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of HB 3265, the Sanctuary Promise Act that will protect Oregonian families and preserve local resources. My name is Elona J Wilson, and I am the Advocacy Director at the Coalition of Communities of Color, an alliance of culturally specific community-based organizations with representation from African, African American, Latinx, Middle Eastern and North African, Native American, Pacific Islander, and Slavic communities in Oregon.

The Coalition of Communities of Color's mission is to address the socioeconomic disparities, institutional racism, and inequity of services experienced by our families, children and communities; and to organize our communities for collective action resulting in social change to obtain self-determination, wellness, justice and prosperity.

We are supporting HB 3265, Sanctuary Promise, because we're all Oregonians, no matter where we were born or how we came here. Immigrant Oregonians are part of our families, communities, workplace, classmates and faith communities, and they should be safe from unfair harassment and profiling just like any other Oregonian.

It was over 30 years ago that Oregon became the first state to pass a Sanctuary law (ORS 181A.820) but still local government and state agencies collaborated with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in targeting Oregonians. In 2018 Oregon voters voted to affirm our state's values of fairness and care, and maintain our sanctuary law. Now it is time to strengthen it to ensure we truly are a sanctuary state.





Our membership consists of diverse communities, all of which are valued and celebrated, and it is time that all of our communities feel safe. HB 3265 will build trust in our communities by clearly prohibiting: collaboration and contracting of ICE and law enforcement, warrantless civil arrests in and around Oregon courthouses, private entities from operating private prisons for immigrant detention, in addition to allowing community members to seek accountability when the law is violated.

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. We can't fix the broken federal immigration system, but we can strengthen the law that protects Oregonians from racial profiling and contributes to thriving communities where people are treated with respect and dignity.

On behalf of the Coalition of Communities of Color, I urge you to take action to strengthen our sanctuary law to protect Oregon families by supporting HB 3265.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elona J. Wilson".

Elona J Wilson
Advocacy Director

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