



Representative Anna Williams  
Oregon House District 52

March 26, 2021

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

Dear Committee Members,

As State Representative for House District 52 and a longtime advocate for the preservation of Oregon's law enforcement resources for the enforcement of Oregon's laws, I urge you to support House Bill 3265.

In past legislative sessions, I have worked to eliminate the Immigration and Customs (ICE) Enforcement contract with the Northern Oregon Regional Correctional Facilities (NORCOR), and that work would not have been necessary had our sanctuary law more clearly prohibited the use of local law enforcement and corrections resources to help enforce federal immigration law.

Thankfully, as others have testified, the NORCOR Board has voted to terminate its contract with ICE, but current case law interpreting the existing sanctuary law does not prohibit other facilities, or a future NORCOR Board, from seeking new relationships with immigration enforcement entities. House Bill 3265 would eliminate that future threat to our communities.

To call it a threat is not an overstatement. I regularly think of one person in my district as an example of the impact that ICE's presence in a community can have: an undocumented parent to a child in our local school is virtually invisible in our town. A few high-profile arrests and detentions throughout the state led her to weigh the risks and benefits of every venture outside of her home, and the possibility that any interaction with law enforcement could lead to her deportation has caused her to become a near-total recluse. Unwilling to venture out to the grocery store or post office, she is dependent on her spouse and children, all citizens, to run the family's errands. She does not attend her kids' sporting events or school plays; she doesn't go to parent-teacher conferences; and she can't earn an income to help support her family. Her kids, consequently, don't have the benefit of her parental engagement which would help them thrive in their educations, and her spouse carries the weight of effectively supporting the entire family. Still, she is probably not wrong in believing that her deportation would have much more dire impacts on her family. This woman is my friend. I miss cheering for our kids with her at soccer games and school music programs. Imagine how much she misses being a part of our community, and how her fear keeps her isolated in her home.

This woman's situation illustrates a significant problem we face: the fear of federal immigration officials' intrusion into Oregon communities destroys those communities' trust and safety. Where immigrants, whether documented or not, could be and often are valuable members of our state's sense of community, prosperity, and health, many are instead relegated to the shadows. Our state's long-standing sanctuary law is intended to prevent this exact outcome, and a strengthening of that law to protect the strength of our diverse and vibrant communities is long overdue.

My Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anna Williams". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "A" and a long, sweeping underline.

Anna Williams  
State Representative, House District 52