



March 26, 2021

To: House Committee on Judiciary
From: Zach Winston, Policy Director

Re: **Testimony in Support of HB 3265**

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

The Immigrant Rights Project (IRP), a core program of the Oregon Justice Resource Center (OJRC), provides personalized advice to Oregon public defense providers regarding the immigration consequences of pleas and convictions for non-citizens. IRP attorneys work with defense counsel to assess the risks of detention, deportation, and inadmissibility, as well as the likelihood and best options for discretionary relief from deportation based on the non-citizen's criminal, immigration, family, and personal history.

The OJRC and IRP strongly encourage your support of HB 3265.

We firmly believe that all Oregonians, no matter where we were born or how we came here, are part of our families, communities, workplaces, and places of worship, and should be safe from unfair harassment and profiling.

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.

Despite Oregon's long-standing sanctuary law, local police and resources are 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 cannot 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 dignity.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Zach Winston' in a cursive script.

Zach Winston
Policy Director
Oregon Justice Resource Center