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**TO: House Committee on Judiciary**  
**FROM: Mae Lee Browning, Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association**  
**DATE: March 26, 2021**  
**RE: Support for HB 3265 – Sanctuary Promise Act**

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

My name is Mae Lee Browning and on behalf of OCDLA, I write in support of HB 3265.

The Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association is a nonprofit professional association for experts, private investigators, and attorneys who represent Oregon’s children and parents in juvenile dependency proceedings, youth in juvenile delinquency proceedings, adults in criminal proceedings at the trial and appellate level, as well as civil commitment proceedings throughout the state of Oregon.

Oregon’s sanctuary law is the nation’s oldest, passed in 1987 with near unanimous support from both Republicans and Democrats. In 2018, Oregon voters overwhelmingly voted to keep Oregon’s sanctuary law. This was a clear statement that Oregon seeks to be a place that is welcoming to all and values the safety of everyone in our communities. However, the experience of our attorneys and the clients we represent reveal that state and local government agencies routinely share information, cooperate and collaborate with Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents to target and arrest Oregonians. This perpetuates fear and causes harm to our communities.

When local police and resources are used to support federal immigration enforcement, immigrant Oregonians are discouraged from accessing public services. For example, the enforcement of warrantless immigration arrests within and around courthouses prevents access to justice because it lowers the willingness of immigrant populations to make police reports and assist in investigations.

HB 3265 decouples local law enforcement databases and resources from ICE enforcement which will ensure that our courts are a place where justice is available for everyone, regardless of a person’s place of birth.

The Sanctuary Promise Act protects Oregonians from racial profiling and ensures that local police and resources will not be used for federal immigration enforcement. Strengthening our sanctuary law is an important step in re-establishing trust in our communities that is critical for every family to feel safe and thrive.

OCDLA urges your support for HB 3265. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

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