

Dear Honorable Representatives and Honorable Senators of the State of Oregon:

We, the undersigned Episcopal bishop, priests and deacons, write this letter to encourage your support for House Bill 3464. As clergy who serve parishes here in Oregon and who regularly minister to some of society's most vulnerable populations, this bill is of significant concern to us. When immigration enforcement chooses procrustean approaches and aggressively pursues productive individuals and vulnerable families that are our community members and neighbors, it negatively impacts the towns and neighborhoods in which our churches are located. It affects members of our parishes and community members who turn to our churches for help.

In our ministries both in our churches and in the wider community, we have witnessed families sundered by deportation and struggling to provide for the needs of remaining family members. We have had community members turn to our churches for help, terrified of what will happen to their young children if their fragile legal status is lost. There are also immigrants who have escaped monstrous and abusive conditions and who live in fear of being deported out of the safety of our communities and back into the dreadful conditions from which they have escaped. In one particular case a major lay leader in an Episcopal parish was seized and detained by immigration enforcement even though he was on DACA status and a food bank volunteer.

When one adds to these experiences the reports about children and families afraid to go about their normal activities of daily life, we have concern for the well-being of our communities in this present time. If parents and family members are afraid to leave home to go to church or to the grocery store, we worry about the health and freedoms of our towns and neighborhoods. For these reasons and out of the common value of loving all of our neighbors as we would love ourselves, we encourage you to support HB 3464. We hope that Oregon can continue to be a safe and welcoming place for all of the valuable community members who live and work here.

Most Sincerely,

The Rt. Rev. Michael Hanley,
Bishop, Diocese of Oregon

The Rev. Roberto Arciniega
Diocesan Latino Missioner

The Rev. Roberto Maldonado
Holy Cross/Santa Cruz Episcopal Church
Gresham, OR

The Rev. Samuel Borbón
St. Marys's Episcopal Church,
Woodburn, Oregon

The Rev. Christopher Craun
St. Michael and All Angels, Rector,
Portland, Oregon

The Rev. Dcn. Marla McGarry-Lawrence,
Latino Ministry, Diocese of Oregon
Portland Oregon

The Rev. Kurt Neilson,
Hospital Chaplain
Portland, Oregon

The Rev. Kate Harmon Siberine
Priest Associate at St. Michael & All Angels
Portland, Oregon

The Rev. Dcn. Cindra Gray,
St. Michael-San Miguel Church
Newberg, Oregon

The Rev. Robert Williams,
St. James/Santiago, Rector,
Tigard, Oregon

The Rev. Dcn. Kristina Burbank
St. James/Santiago
Lincoln City, Oregon

The Rev. Wilson Ferreira
Todos los Santos
Hillsboro, Oregon

The Rev. Zachary Harmon
Curate at St. Paul's,
Salem, Oregon

The Rev. Margaret McMurren
Prince of Peace Episcopal Church
Salem, Oregon

The Rev. Fred Heard
St. Thomas' Episcopal Church
Dallas, Oregon