

March 19, 2021

Dear Chair Bynum and members of the committee,

I am writing to ask for your support of HB 3265, The Sanctuary Promise Act. This bill will make it so that Oregonians feel safer in their communities. As a Quaker, I believe that all life is sacred and that we should care for not just our neighbors but also strangers in our midst. This legislation makes it so that my neighbors feel more comfortable in their day-to-day activities—going to work, attending religious services and buying groceries among others—without fear of being unfairly detained or targeted due to their skin color or possible accent.

I care about this bill because my niece is married to an immigrant. I don't want her children to worry that their dad might not come home at night just because he was targeted due to the color of his skin. He has mentioned being stopped numerous times for no apparent reason while driving, and we know it is due to his heritage. No police ever stop me for no reason when I'm driving, and I don't think that practice is fair or warranted.

As a member of the Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice (IMIJ), I am part of a network of people of faith who have accompanied community members as they've navigated an immigration system that separates families and tears communities apart. A good friend of mine is an attorney for the immigrant community, and I know the difficulties community members face. This bill is about real people who I care about being treated with kindness and respect like we all want to be treated. All Oregonians should feel safe driving to work or to the store. Please pass HB 3265. Thank you for your hard work on this issue.

Sincerely,

Rachel Hampton