

Cindy Quale
Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice
Portland, Oregon 97220

Dear Chair Bynum and Members of the Committee;

I wholeheartedly support HB 3265, The Sanctuary Promise Act. I am asking you to pass this bill without delay. I want to live in a state where the human rights of all are respected and this bill points us in that direction.

I am a Jew and was raised in the Jewish tradition. What I remember from the Torah are lessons about welcoming the stranger and leaving some of the wheat unharvested in the fields for those in need. This was my foundation but what brings me to work for the rights of immigrants is that I am the granddaughter of immigrants. My grandparents came to America escaping severe oppression in the Ukraine. I have been very lucky and have become privileged here in America. I support immigrants being able to move freely about our state without the fear of being turned over to ICE by local officials, because I understand on a personal level why people come here. They want what we all want, a good life for ourselves and those we love. The rhetoric that blames immigrants for what is wrong with our society angers and saddens me and does us all a disservice. We are none of us free till all of us are free including immigrants. In doing this work I have met a number of people who are immigrants themselves and they have shared their stories. I have heard of a woman who is trying to get her children to come live with her here facing one hurdle after another. I have heard the story of someone who used to have to leave in the middle of school to take her father to work so he could avoid being detained by ICE. Immigrants are our neighbors and they have a right to live without fear of what will happen each day.

ICE and detention centers do not belong in Oregon and if we can pass HB 3265 we can accomplish something good together and honor ALL of the inhabitants of our state.

Thank You

Sincerely,

Cindy Quale