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Dear Chair Bynum and members of the committee,

I write to you today to urge you to pass HB 3265, The Sanctuary Promise Act. This piece of legislation will get us closer to a horizon in which all Oregonians feel their families are safe, secure and protected. As a person whose faith is rooted in the Christian tradition, I hold deeply in my heart that everyone must welcome the stranger and that our policies must center the humanity in all of us. This piece of legislation does that by expanding our decades-old Sanctuary law so that more people in my community feel safe from unfair harassment and profiling going to work, going to get groceries, or driving to their places of worship.

I care about this bill because these are our neighbors, friends and loved ones, who deserve to be safe, secure, and taken care of. 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. If Oregonians don't feel safe, they are less likely to be able to access resources they need and cannot contribute. This hurts all of us and our communities and Oregon loses the resources, ideas, and entrepreneurship of all of its citizens.

As a leader in the Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice (IMIrJ), I am part of a network of people of faith and fierce love who have accompanied community members as they've navigated an immigration system that separates families and tears communities apart. While it can often be hard to see as we navigate language in a bill, this law is really about people and communities together ensuring that all Oregonians feel safer. I urge you to pass HB 3265.

Thank you for your work and attention,

Victoria Hiller  
she/her/hers