

Dear Chair Bynum and members of the committee,

My name is Laura Alexander and I am a licensed clinical social worker providing mental health and case management services to families and teens in Portland. 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 who has witnessed the fear and disruption to families facing punitive immigration proceedings, I hold deeply in my heart the certainty that when we protect and honor the humanity and safety of the most vulnerable among us, we improve the safety for all Oregonians - and beyond. 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 while living their personal, productive lives - in going to work, going to get groceries, or driving to their places of worship.

As we have seen over the past many years, it is time for a shift in our thinking and conversations about the rights of our neighbors who have immigrated to the US. The passage of HB3265 would be one small but important step in moving our immigration policies toward a more just, human-centered system. Thank you for considering this testimony and please - I urge you to pass HB3265.