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Dear Chair Bynum, and members of the committee,

I write to you today to urge you to pass The Sanctuary Promise Act, HB 3265. This piece of legislation will get us closer to making all Oregonians feel their families are safe, secure, welcomed, and protected. As a person whose faith is rooted in the Christian tradition, I hold deeply in my heart that our policies must honor and respect the humanity and dignity of every person. 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 when just being out and having fun with family and friends, or going to work, going to get groceries, or driving to their places of worship.

I care about this bill because my faith teaches me about the importance of sanctuary, true safety, and love. I feel that our policies should reflect the importance of connection, safety, dignity, and compassion – as I need this, and I think we all do. In creating this safety, this welcoming, this dignity, we create community with one another, and I believe that we all do better when we are not scared.

As an active participant in the Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice (IMIJ), I am part of a network of people of faith and fierce love who have accompanied community members as they have 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,

Andrea Igl