

Bob Wilson
Sellwood, Portland, OR 97202

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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 member of the First United Methodist Church of Portland, I hold to my tradition's teaching that every person is made in the image of God and of infinite worth. This piece of legislature reinforces that by expanding our decades-old Sanctuary law so that more people in my community feel safe from unfair harassment and profiling while going to work, going to the grocery store, or driving to their places of worship.

In my mom's declining years in Texas she was cared for largely by a community of immigrants from Mexico. Some, but not all, were documented; some, but not all, had green cards; and the smallest number had attained citizenship. During this time, I came to love and understand more about this community of immigrants, documented and otherwise, and to feel for their fears about their status and safety in their adopted home. Each time they traveled to visit their families in Mexico I was in a state of high anxiety as I envisioned their border crossings and the scrutiny they would receive there. I can scarcely imagine how wonderful would feel for them to live in a state where those fears are put to rest.

As a leader 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'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 bringing people and communities together and ensuring that all Oregonians feel safer. I urge you to pass HB 3265.

Thank you for your work and attention,

Bob Wilson