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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 Episcopal tradition, I hold deeply in my heart that people should be able to live peacefully and without fear. This piece of legislation does that by expanding our decades-old Sanctuary law so that more people in my community and parish feel safe from unfair harassment and profiling going to work, going to get groceries, driving to their places of worship, or keeping a court date. .

I care about this bill because I have seen how difficult it has become for members of my congregation and community to raise children without excessive fearfulness, to feel isolated and unable to seek help in times of need due to lack of trust in authority figures such as the police.

I see people who are recent immigrants everywhere in my community; working in the berry fields next to my home, providing lawn service, home repair and remodeling, replacing roofs on houses. They work very hard to build a life here for their families and I hope they will be able to fully and safely participate in the life of this country. They have much to offer all of us.

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,

Elizabeth Klein Ilem