

SUBJECT: Yes on HB 3265

Chair Bynum, Vice-Chairs Noble and Power, and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

My name is Veronica Maria Vega, I have been a resident of Bend Oregon for 17 years. I am the daughter of Mexican immigrants, a second generation Mexican-American. I come from a hard working family who valued education and contributing to the local community. My parents sacrifice and example is a big reason I have the opportunity to contribute as a senior leader at a prominent Oregon business.

I am writing in support of HB 3265. We're all Oregonians, no matter where we were born or how we came here. HB 3265 addresses the gaps in Oregon's 34-year-old sanctuary law so that we can keep Oregon's state and local agencies out of harm caused by the federal immigration system. We need to act to put an end to the unfair racial profiling of Oregonians simply because they are perceived to be undocumented immigrants.

The Sanctuary Promise Act accomplishes the following:

Disentanglement: Builds trust in Oregon communities by clearly prohibiting local law enforcement and governments from working with and communicating with federal agents for the purpose of immigration enforcement.

Private right of action: Allows community members to seek accountability when the law is violated.

Prohibition of detention contracts: Prohibits state and local correctional facilities from contracting with the federal government for immigration detention.

Prohibition of private detention centers: Prohibits private entities like for-profit corporations from operating private prisons for immigrant detention.

Courthouses: Protects Oregon's justice system by enshrining into law the current state court rule that prohibits warrantless civil arrests in and around courthouses.

I mentioned my background because my family and community have been directly impacted by living in fear of racial profiling in the United States. In a place like Bend which is a sanctuary city, those are only words-with no backing and accountability for when our citizens are treated unjustly and without due process. I grew up in a multi generational household, My grandmother lived her life in the US in the shadows. I never knew her to make a single friend in the community, she lived afraid and guarded because she was Mexican with a green card. It pains me to think that people still live in fear of being snatched from their families simply because they are brown. We had a horrible ICE raid incident in Bend this past year, I sat amongst the protestors and heard peoples stories- restaurant workers who had seen raids come through the kitchens. People afraid of coming and going to work. This is simply unjust. In that incident we saw local officials assist ICE officials, and no food or water given to the detainees for hours held in the bus. Afterwards I heard many community members frustrated that Bend as a sanctuary city meant nothing, Our community is not any more safe or welcoming to immigrants. I believe this bill is a step in the right direction.

Oregon's sanctuary law is the nation's oldest and has formed part of our state identity for 30 years. However, state and local government agencies across Oregon still assist Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents to target and arrest Oregonians. 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.

The Sanctuary Promise Act protects Oregonians from racial profiling and ensures that local police and resources will not be used for federal immigration enforcement.

In 2018, Oregon voters overwhelmingly voted in favor of Oregon's sanctuary law. Now the 2021 Legislature can make it stronger, to protect Oregon families and preserve local resources. Please consider my story, and the voices in our community in support of this bill.

Thank You, Veronica Maria Vega