



Smart policies for today's families.

Testimony in Support of HB 3265
March 24, 2021

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

Family Forward Oregon strongly supports HB 3265 to protect Oregonian families and preserve local resources. Our organization works to strengthen the economic security of mothers, caregivers, parents, and families of all backgrounds through bold policies. As members of the Fair Shot Coalition, we support this legislation as part of our ongoing effort for racial and immigrant justice.

ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) has dehumanized, abused, and criminalized people of color— particularly Latinx and Muslim immigrant women, for decades. Women uniquely suffer at the hands of the immigration detention system through horrific abuse in many forms: sexual assault, forced sterilizations, and denied reproductive, maternal, and mental health care. Since 2020, at least 17 women have come forward to report unnecessary medical procedures, including hysterectomies, in an ICE facility, with threats of deportation from ICE staff members.¹ The number of women detained and the proportion of women in detention in the U.S have also continued to rise: Women and girls made up 14.5 percent of the population detained by ICE in 2016, a 60 percent increase from 2009.²

Immigrant mothers and caregivers in Oregon are the backbone of our families, communities, workplaces and places of worship. They should not be subject to the fear of being separated from their families and suffer from the abuse of ICE any longer.

In 2018, Oregon voters overwhelmingly voted in favor of Oregon's sanctuary law. Now in 2021, the Legislature can make it stronger, to protect immigrant women and mothers, and preserve local resources. The Sanctuary Promise Act will strengthen our current sanctuary law by accomplishing 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

¹ <https://globalrightsforwomen.org/featured/violence-against-women-and-girls-ice-custody/>

² <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/women/reports/2019/10/21/475997/immigration-detention-dangerous-womens-health-rights/>

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.

At its core, all detention is separation—from family, from community, and from access to critical services. We have seen children held in border camps, numerous violations against women's rights, and federal immigration agents making terrifying arrests in our courthouses and in our communities.

The Sanctuary Promise Act protects Oregonians from racial profiling and ensures that local police and resources will not be used for federal immigration enforcement. While we cannot fix the broken federal immigration system here in Oregon, we can work to strengthen the law that protects Oregonians from racial profiling and keeps families together. We urge your YES vote on HB 3265.

Sincerely,
Lisa Kwon, Policy Manager
Family Forward Oregon