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House District
Portland, Oregon 97219

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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. I have been very proud to live in a state that values Sanctuary. Sadly, the current law is limited in its ability to support and protect members of our community as intended. This piece of legislation will close the gap between the intent of the Sanctuary law passed decades ago and the way that it has been enacted. The proposed law will further strengthen the goal of sanctuary by addressing issues that have come up in the last several years as immigrants and refugees have been vilified and denied opportunities to be fully part of and contribute to our communities.

As a person whose faith is rooted in the tradition of the Methodist Church and the values of social justice and welcoming the stranger, I feel strongly that we must focus on and uplift the humanity in all of us. Immigrants provide so much to make our communities liveable. As examples, immigrant farmworkers are essential to getting food from farms to table and caregivers of our elders and our children often come from immigrant populations. Yet these immigrant groups are so often exploited and forced to live in the shadows. I am proud to be working with the Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice to support the Sanctuary Promise Act. Expanding the current Sanctuary law will help ensure that people in my community feel safe from unfair harassment and profiling when they go to work, get groceries, or drive to their places of worship.

I urge you to support this legislation. Thank you for your work and attention,

Diana White