

Amanda Yampolsky
3418 SE Johnson Creek Blvd
Portland OR 97222

March 24, 2021

Dear Representative Powers and members of the committee,

I write to you today to urge you to pass HB 3265, The Sanctuary Promise Act. I care about this bill because when I worked at the Family Support Center with Portland Public Schools I saw first hand the complex web of policies and legislation that directly affected students and families who had recently immigrated to the United States. I was always very proud that we could enroll students in school without having to inquire about their documentation status. Families were often experiencing tremendous upheaval and uncertainty in their lives, so enrolling in school was reassuring and stabilizing. Parents knew our center was a safe place so we were sometimes privy to information that allowed us to direct them to an array of community services they may not have otherwise been aware of. Oregon's Sanctuary law functions similarly in that when our residents feel safe they can be more engaged in the community. With additional provisions that will make community engagement with public services feel safer the state and all our inhabitants will be safer.

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,

Amanda Yampolsky