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Thursday, March 25th, 2021

Dear Chair Bynum and members of the committee,

In a time when children are still being held in cages at our border, it is more imperative than ever to strengthen Oregon's Sanctuary laws. I am writing today to urge you to pass HB 3265, The Sanctuary Promise Act. This piece of legislation is critical to bring us closer to an Oregon where all feel their families are safe, secure and protected.

As a Christian of the Presbyterian denomination, I am convicted that love of neighbor as yourself must be reflected in policy, and that a love of neighbor refers to ALL neighbors. This legislation centers the humanity in all of us by expanding our Sanctuary laws so that people can go to work without being profiled or harassed, get groceries and drive to places of worship without fear.

I care about this bill because I care about people. I also personally know incredible families who have made incredible sacrifices so that their loved ones can have a better life. Everyone should have an opportunity to have that life in a community built on mutual care and not one of terror and fear.

As a youth leader of faith, I am a part of the network of the Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice (IMIrJ) that is full of fiercely loving people of many faith traditions who have walked with community members navigating a system that continues to separate families and divide communities.

If you zoom out from the minutia of the bill's language, the crux of the bill is ensuring that community is strengthened, people and their stories are honored, and Oregonians can feel safer. I urge you to pass HB 3265.

Thank you for your work and attention,

Hannah Harrington