



CITY OF

PORTLAND, OREGON

Ted Wheeler, Mayor
Carmen Rubio, Commissioner
Dan Ryan, Commissioner
Jo Ann Hardesty, Commissioner
Mingus Mapps, Commissioner

March 25, 2021

Representative Janelle Bynum, Chair
House Judiciary Committee
900 Court Street NE, HR F
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Bynum Members of the Committee,

The City of Portland strongly supports the Sanctuary Promise Act (HB3265) and the -1 amendment. As recently as 2018, Portlanders signaled their emphatic support for Oregon's sanctuary law. This followed, and preceded, numerous instances where Portlanders have indicated they do not want their local or state governments to support the federal government's aggressive actions against our family, friends, and neighbors.

Oregon's sanctuary law has big holes. Policy gaps are worth closing in any circumstance, but the holes in this law imperil peoples' lives. The ACLU has demonstrated that, across Oregon, law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and other criminal justice professionals routinely collaborate with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents, both unintentionally and intentionally. These officials act against the spirit of the law but do so in ways that do not necessarily violate its letter. The Sanctuary Promise Act would correct this.

The Sanctuary Promise Act would also eliminate one of ICE's avenues for immigration enforcement by racial profiling. When an officer asks someone to provide their country of birth at booking, the booking officer does more than simply gather another data point. That information identifies individuals who have immigrated—whether they have done so legally or illegally—and becomes a tool to undercut the processes and proceedings of courts. HB 3265 will end this practice.

Passing HB 3265 will make our state safer. We are all safer when our community members can engage our justice system openly. We need people to keep court dates on civil and criminal matters. If people fear that ICE will be waiting in the courthouse wings, they might not show up. And if they don't show up, any one of a number of bad scenarios could unfold—nearly all of which may escalate a situation.

These weaknesses in Oregon's Sanctuary Law weaken our social fabric as a state, make us less safe, and encourage racism by public servants. Please keep our state safe and protect our community members. We urge the passage of the Sanctuary Promise Act.

Sincerely,

Ted Wheeler
Mayor

Carmen Rubio
Commissioner

Dan Ryan
Commissioner

Jo Ann Hardesty
Commissioner

Mingus Mapps
Commissioner