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Dear Chair Bynum and members of the committee,

I urge you to pass HB 3265, The Sanctuary Promise Act. This legislation will help immigrants and their families feel safer and more secure and protected in Oregon. As a member of the Episcopal church, I embrace the belief that every human being, including those who live in the shadows or at the margins of society, deserves to be treated with respect. Too often immigrants, especially those who are people of color, are singled out for mistreatment. This Act if passed will expand Oregon's decades-old Sanctuary law so that all people in our state, regardless of ethnicity or country of origin, feel safe from unfair harassment and profiling while going to work, shopping for groceries, or driving to their places of worship.

I care about this bill because I personally know people who have been unfairly singled out and harassed by law enforcement because of the color of their skin. I know people who have had ICE show up at their home after being stopped for a minor traffic infraction. I know people who are afraid to go to the courthouse because they fear who might be waiting there to profile them. These are members of my church and friends, ordinary people working hard to better their lives, to provide a decent life for their families, and to contribute to their communities.

As a member in St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church, and the Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice, I have accompanied community members as they've navigated an immigration system that dehumanizes people, separates families and tears at the fabric of communities. While this bill will not solve all of the issues of injustice, I believe it will better ensure that all Oregonians feel safer and that treatment of all people will be more equitable. For these reasons, I urge you to pass HB 3265.

Thank you for your work and attention,

Beverly Hoeffler