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House Passes Sanctuary Promise Act in Support of Immigrant and Refugee Communities

HB 3265 will protect our immigrant and refugee communities by prioritizing community safety, human rights, and dignity, setting clear guidelines and keeping local law enforcement and federal immigration authorities separate.

SALEM, OR—Today the House passed [House Bill 3265](#), the Sanctuary Promise Act, which will protect Oregonian immigrant and refugee communities by prioritizing community safety, human rights, and dignity.

HB 3265 would [update current laws](#) and set clear guidelines, prohibiting local law enforcement and government agencies from working and engaging with federal immigration authorities for the purposes of enforcing federal immigration law. It also works to reestablish the trust in government and local systems that has been lost in past years with the unlawful detainment of community members, growing doubt of government intentions, and creation of policies like public charge.

“Immigrant and refugee communities are human beings and deserve to be treated with dignity and compassion,” said co-chief sponsor, [Rep. Teresa Alonso Leon](#) (D-Woodburn). “When people come to this country, in many cases it is because they are fleeing poverty, violence, and natural disasters, an experience I know firsthand. HB 3265 will make sure our communities’ safety is prioritized, while also providing legal recourse in the face of injustice.”

“Without strong sanctuary laws, when our neighbors, families, and friends communicate with our federal, state, and local governments, they are putting themselves at risk,” said [Rep. Wlmsvey Campos](#) (D-Aloha), co-chief sponsor of the bill. “This creates fear, and that fear builds barriers around Oregonians who are in need, barriers keeping them away from systems to improve their health, access legal services, secure housing and much more.”

Specifically, HB 3265 will prohibit local law enforcement and other public entities from gathering and sharing individuals' immigration information with federal immigration authorities, from providing assistance with immigration law enforcement, and from operating immigrant detention centers. It will prohibit federal immigration authorities from carrying out warrantless civil arrests in and around Oregon's courthouses and provide immigrant and refugee communities with the option to take legal action if the law is violated.

"From Oregon currently being a sanctuary state to the New Colossus sonnet on our Statue of Liberty—*Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!*—the promise of refuge is all around," said [Rep. Andrea Valderrama](#) (D-Portland). "As a co-chief sponsor I'm proud we kept our promise to our immigrant and refugee communities by passing HB 3265."

[Studies have demonstrated](#) that when community members fear being targeted by federal immigration authorities, they are less likely to engage in the criminal justice system. A recent, nationwide survey showed that 54 percent of judges reported that court cases were interrupted due to an immigrant crime survivor's fear of coming to court. The vast majority of prosecutors surveyed—82 percent—said that domestic violence had become underreported and harder to prosecute as a result of increased ICE arrests in and around courthouses.

"Right now, immigrant and refugee communities understandably fear that contact with their local law enforcement or justice system could result in detention or being handed over to federal immigration authorities," said [Rep. Jason Kropf](#) (D-Bend). "HB 3265 will foster greater trust between local law enforcement and the communities they serve. This will improve safety and justice and lead to communities that are more welcoming and inclusive."

[Rep. Lisa Reynolds](#) (D-Portland), a pediatrician and co-sponsor of the bill said, "Immigrants are an essential part of our communities and greatly contribute to our state's wellbeing. It is imperative that we keep children together with their parents and approach our fractured immigration system with a more compassionate approach by building a better pathway to citizenship. HB 3265 moves us in the right direction, and I was happy to see it pass on the House floor today."

"Our state has a deep history of racism, and passing a policy that creates a strong sanctuary promise is a small, important step in the right direction. Ensuring families aren't torn apart for minor civil infractions will keep our communities whole and thriving," said [Rep. Andrea Salinas](#) (D-Lake Oswego), a sponsor.

The legislation was brought forth by Oregon's immigrant and refugee communities and passed in consultation with community stakeholders, including law enforcement, counties, district attorneys, our court system, the Department of Corrections, and the Attorney General.

"Oregon's communities are stronger, healthier, and safer when they are inclusive of all," said Tony DeFalco, Executive Director of [Latino Network](#). "People of color, immigrants, and refugees in Oregon seeking to take part in civic society and access needed services experience

exclusion and harm when they are targeted because of their perceived immigration status. HB 3265 will create real and tangible progress toward reducing this exclusion and harm.”

“The Sanctuary Promise Act is about Oregon’s core values – about recognizing and embracing the inherent dignity of every person, no matter where they were born, the color of their skin, or how they joined our communities,” said [ACLU of Oregon](#) Executive Director Sandy Chung. “We are thankful to the Oregonians who allied and acted with our immigrant and refugee community members and the legislators who listened to them.”

“Passing the Sanctuary Promise Act reaffirms that Oregon believes in dignity and respect for all Oregonians. This is a critical step to strengthen the promise we made to immigrant Oregonians when Oregon passed its first Sanctuary Law to keep Oregon institutions separate from federal immigration authorities,” said Isa Peña, Interim Executive Director of [Causa](#), Oregon’s immigrants’ rights organization.

The bill passed 36-21 and now heads to the Senate for consideration.

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