

MEMO

Date: June 5, 2024

Subject: Border Security and Repealing the Sanctuary Promise Act

To: Oregon Republican legislators and candidates who toured southern border

From: Senator Tim Knopp, Representative Breese-Iverson

Introduction

During our Arizona trip earlier this year, we repeatedly heard that "every state is a border state." This has become increasingly relevant as the Biden administration appears to be taking executive action on the border this week. It is clear we must address the ongoing border crisis.

Impact on Oregon

Oregon has been significantly impacted by the border crisis, particularly through the influx of fentanyl and other illicit drugs from the southern border into our communities. These substances have damaged lives and are the driving force behind our repeal of Measure 110 during the short session. Although this legislation was a step in the right direction, it lacked a critical amendment that would have allowed cooperation with federal law enforcement.

1987: Oregon Becomes the First Sanctuary State

In 1987, Oregon became the first sanctuary state. The designation did not have immediate financial implications, as the primary focus was on establishing a legal and policy framework to limit the cooperation of local law enforcement with federal immigration authorities.

2019: HB 2508 - Grants for Organizations Supporting Immigrants

In 2019, Oregon passed HB 2508, which directed the Department of Human Services (DHS) to award grants to organizations supporting immigrants and refugees. This legislation marked a significant financial commitment, with \$4,500,000 allocated for the first biennium. These funds were intended to enhance support services for the immigrant community, reflecting Oregon's ongoing commitment to its sanctuary status.

2021: HB 3265 - Sanctuary Promise Act

The Sanctuary Promise Act (HB 3265), passed in 2021, further solidified Oregon's sanctuary status by prohibiting local law enforcement and public entities from assisting federal immigration authorities. The implementation of this act required \$905,071 in the first biennium and an additional \$102,627 in the second biennium, totaling \$1,007,698. This expenditure covered the costs associated with ensuring compliance and training for local agencies. Notably, no Republicans voted to pass HB 3265 in 2021, a decision that has proven to be prudent given the current circumstances.

2021: SB 778 - Establishment of the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Advancement

Also in 2021, SB 778 was enacted, establishing the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Advancement. This office was created to provide dedicated support and advocacy for immigrant and refugee communities in Oregon. The financial commitment for this initiative was substantial, with \$1,376,037 allocated in the first biennium and the same amount for the second biennium, totaling \$2,752,074.

Summary of Expenditures

From 2019 to 2021, Oregon spent a total of \$8,259,772 on sanctuary-related laws and initiatives. This includes, in part:

- **HB 2508 (2019):** \$4,500,000
- **HB 3265 (2021):** \$1,007,698
- **SB 778 (2021):** \$2,752,074

Reestablishing Collaboration with Federal Efforts

We believe it is imperative for Oregon to collaborate with the federal government to be part of the solution to the border crisis. A key starting point would be a repeal of the Sanctuary Promise Act (HB 3265, 2021).

Commitment to Repeal Sanctuary Promise Act

We are committed to bringing a repeal of the Sanctuary Promise Act in the 2025 legislative session. Additionally, we believe it is essential to continue discussing and developing solutions that may go further to fully address this border crisis effectively.

Crack Down on Pill Presses Used to Make Illicit Drugs

Our colleagues in Arizona were working to pass legislation that would define pill tableting machines (pill presses), created reporting requirements for the sale or transfer of a pill press, and ensured sufficient penalties for using them to counterfeit a drug and./ or lace it with another illegal substance like fentanyl. Oregon must do the same (see Oregon HB 4144, 2024 or Arizona SB 1447, 2024).

Conclusion

The crisis at our southern border is a national issue with negative local repercussions. By repealing the Sanctuary Promise Act and to reestablish cooperation with federal authorities, Oregon can take meaningful steps towards mitigating the adverse impacts of the border crisis on our state.

Next Steps

This memorandum is intended to inform and guide our actions as we address the border crisis and its impacts on Oregon. Your support and cooperation are crucial as we move forward with these initiatives.

- Introduce legislation for full or partial repeal of the Sanctuary Promise Act.
- Pass legislation to regulate the use of pill presses
- Engage with federal authorities to establish cooperative frameworks.
- Convene discussions with stakeholders to explore additional solutions.

Respectfully,



Senator Tim Knopp
District 27



Representative Vikki Breese-Iverson
District 59

