

Sanctuary Cities

In response to concerns raised at the 2017 2017 League of Women Voters of Lane County annual meeting, the following report presents background information on sanctuary cities and what's happening with them locally, statewide, and nationally.

A study of sanctuary cities inevitably encompasses the topic of immigration and the statutes, practices and organizations involved with both documented and undocumented immigrants. Immigration is an area that is rapidly changing, on both the formal level of laws, rules and court decisions and the informal level of organizational and individual assistance to immigrants. Behind each change is the story of an individual immigrant and his/her attempts to create a new life in the United States.

The League of Women Voters of the United States Summary Position on Immigration (2008)

The League of Women Voters believes that immigration policies should promote reunification of immediate families; meet the economic, business and employment needs of the United States; and be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises. Provision should also be made for qualified persons to enter the United States on student visas. All persons should receive fair treatment under the law. The League supports federal immigration law that provides an efficient, expeditious system (with minimal or no backlogs) for legal entry of immigrants into the United States.

In achieving overall policy goals, the League supports a system for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status, including citizenship, by paying taxes, learning English, studying civics and meeting other relevant criteria. While policy reforms, including a path to legal status, remain unachieved, the League does not support deporting unauthorized immigrants who have no history of criminal activity. The League supports federal payments to impacted communities to address the financial costs borne by states and local governments with large immigrant populations.¹

What is a Sanctuary City?

The concept of a sanctuary city goes back thousands of years. It has been associated with Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Buddhism, Baha'i, Sikhism, and Hinduism. In Western Civilization, sanctuary cities can be traced back to the Old Testament. The Book of Numbers commands the selection of six cities of refuge in which the perpetrators of accidental manslaughter could claim the right of asylum. Outside of these cities, blood vengeance against such perpetrators was allowed by law.²

There is no legal definition of a sanctuary city, but the term is applied to a) communities that do not request the immigration status from anyone who is stopped or arrested; b) communities that do not permit the police to participate in local immigration roundups; and c) communities that do not comply with U. S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) requests to hold individuals who would otherwise be released following an arrest or court appearance. (These requests from ICE are called "detainers.")³

Federal law does not require local law enforcement to ask an individual about their immigration status; in fact, many federal courts have ruled that detainers with no probable cause are in violation of the fourth amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which bars unreasonable searches, seizures and arrests.⁴

One of the justifications for sanctuary cities is to reduce the fear of deportation and possible family break-up among people who are in the country without documentation so that they will be more willing to report crimes, use health and social services, and enroll their children in school.⁵

Terminology

Several different terms and phrases are used to describe immigrants who enter the U.S. without documentation. The term “alien” is considered insensitive by many. Usage of the word “illegal” (e.g., illegal alien, illegal immigrant, illegal worker and illegal migrant) has declined. Several other phrases are competing for wide acceptance: “undocumented immigrant,” “unauthorized immigrant,” and “undocumented person” or “undocumented people.”

Media outlets' policies on the use of terms differ, and no consensus has yet emerged in the press. In 2013, the Associated Press changed its AP Stylebook to provide that "Except in direct quotes essential to the story, use “illegal” only to refer to an action, not a person: illegal immigration, but not illegal immigrant."⁶

Recent Federal Action and Legislation

In the early 1980s a sanctuary movement developed in response to federal immigration policies that made obtaining asylum difficult for Central Americans. The sanctuary movement was a religious and political campaign in the United States to provide safe-haven for Central American refugees fleeing civil conflict. At its peak, the sanctuary movement involved more than 500 congregations in the United States, including Eugene, which, by declaring themselves official “sanctuaries,” committed to providing shelter, protection, material goods and often legal advice to Central American refugees.⁷

In 2013 Congressman DeFazio cosponsored H.R. 15, the House Democratic comprehensive immigration bill, the Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act. This bill would have created a path to citizenship for people who are currently in the country illegally. The Republican leadership refused to bring it to the floor for a vote.⁸

Sanctuary cities entered presidential politics in the race for the Republican Party presidential nomination in 2008. Colorado Rep. Tom Tancredo ran on an anti-illegal immigration platform and specifically attacked sanctuary cities.

On January 25, 2017 President Donald Trump signed an Executive Order directing the Secretary of Homeland Security and Attorney General to defund sanctuary jurisdictions that refuse to comply with federal immigration law. He also ordered the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to begin issuing weekly public reports that include "a comprehensive list of criminal actions committed by aliens and any jurisdiction that ignored or otherwise failed to honor any detainers with respect to such aliens."⁹

According to the American Immigration Council, the Executive Order defines enforcement priorities so broadly as to place all undocumented individuals at risk of deportation, including families, long-time residents, and “Dreamers,” and it withholds federal funding from cities that refuse to cooperate with federal immigration authorities.

On November 20, 2017, U.S. District Judge William Orrick issued a nationwide permanent injunction halting this executive order. The reasoning was that by ordering the two cabinet members to “foreclose a jurisdiction’s eligibility to federal funds, the Order seeks to endow the executive branch with the right to make a legislative decision reserved only to Congress.”¹⁰ The Trump administration appealed that decision to the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

According to a September 2017 *Washington Post* article, despite President Trump’s push for tougher immigration enforcement, fewer people have been deported in the government’s 2017 fiscal year than during the same period last year, even though ICE agents have made 43 percent more arrests since Trump took office. According to policy experts, immigration attorneys, and ICE officials, there appear to be several factors that explain this phenomenon, including:

- a) The number of people attempting to cross the U.S.-Mexico border without documentation has fallen off dramatically and remains well below historic levels.
- b) The president's anti-immigrant policies have spawned sanctuary policies in many local jurisdictions and a surge of pro-bono legal help for undocumented and detained immigrants.
- c) The additional arrests and litigation appear to be overwhelming the U.S. federal immigration court system, which faces a backlog of more than 600,000 cases. ICE has responded by targeting more non-criminal undocumented immigrants, such as those appearing at mandatory ICE check-ins and relatives and other people living with a suspect, called "collateral" arrests. Rep. Lamar Smith (R-Tex.), a member of the House Committee on Homeland Security, blamed "sanctuary" policies and advocacy groups for holding ICE back.¹¹

According to the American Immigration Council, current federal law does not require that localities ask about immigration status. In addition, federal law does not:

- a) Prohibit laws or policies that limit communications regarding criminal case information, custody status, or release dates of individuals in custody;
- b) Mandate that jurisdictions comply with immigration detainers;
- c) Prohibit policies or laws that restrict compliance with detainers;
- d) Require state or local law enforcement to collect information on immigration or citizenship status;
- e) Prevent jurisdictions from limiting the collection of such information.¹²

Within the past few years there have been several Congressional attempts to change these federal provisions that protect undocumented immigrants. These legislative bills have all failed to pass:

- Senate bill (SB) 2146 (2015) prohibited a sanctuary jurisdiction from receiving grants under the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program, the Community Oriented Policing Services Program, and the Community Development Block Grant Program.¹³
- SB 2193 (2015), Kate's Law, was named after Kate Steinle who was killed in San Francisco by Jose Garcia Zarate, a person who had seven felony convictions on his record and had been deported five times and had once again returned to the United States. The Steinle killing is often cited as a reason to oppose sanctuary cities. The bill would have amended the 1965 Immigration and Nationality Act to "establish a 5-year mandatory minimum prison term for an alien who reenters after being removed following a conviction for an aggravated felony or following two or more prior convictions for illegal reentry."¹⁴
- SB 3100 (2016) prohibited a sanctuary jurisdiction from receiving grants under certain Economic Development Assistance Programs and the Community Development Block Grant Program.¹⁵ On July 5, 2016 the American Civil Liberties Union sent a letter to senators asking them to oppose SB 3100 on the following grounds:
 - 1) The Department of Homeland Security immigration detainer policy presents "serious Fourth Amendment problems by causing the extended detention of tens of thousands of people annually without probable cause, without judicial approval, and without due process procedures."
 - 2) The bill's "broad sweep would target more than 350 localities-most of which expressly do not identify as 'sanctuary cities'."
 - 3) The bill would "overturn 350+ community trust policies designed to promote public safety and combat crime." In other words, undocumented residents may refuse to work with the police for fear that they or people they know or depend upon will risk deportation.¹⁶
- House Bill (HB) 174 and SB 37 (2017), Sarah's Law, were in response to the death of Council Bluffs Iowa native Sarah Root. She was killed in a street racing crash in January 2016 that involved an undocumented immigrant from Honduras. Both bills seek to amend the 1965 Immigration and

Nationality Act to require U.S. Immigration to take into custody undocumented immigrants charged with a crime resulting in the death or serious injury of another person in the U.S.¹⁷

Two recent bills that have passed the House and are headed to the Senate are HB 3003 and HB 3004 (2017), which would undermine sanctuary status. These bills are basically a repackaging of prior House and Senate bills:

- HB3003 1) Requires federal, state, or local government or any individual to comply with immigration law and cooperate with federal law enforcement, and it expands the scope of law enforcement activities relating to immigration related information, such as making inquiries into an individual's immigration status, notifying the federal government, complying with federal law enforcement information requests; 2) It punishes "a state or political subdivision" that is not in compliance by making them ineligible to receive grants or assistance for "incarceration of undocumented aliens, the Cops on the Beat Program, the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Program, or any DOJ or DHS grant substantially related to law enforcement, terrorism, national security, immigration, or naturalization, and it allows victims of crimes committed by undocumented immigrants to sue those cities;."¹⁸ 3) The bill expands the categories of offenses requiring mandatory detention. The bill passed the House without amendment 06/29/2017 by a vote of 228 to 195.
- HB 3004, Kate's Law (named after an earlier bill) increases the penalties on criminals who, after being deported, return to the United States. Specifically, a sentence of not more than 10 years for an alien convicted of three or more misdemeanors or a felony; imprisonment of not more than 10 years for an alien who has been denied admission, deported, or removed three or more times, who then reenters the U.S; imprisonment of not more than 15 years for an alien convicted of a felony and sentenced to a term of imprisonment of at least 30 months; imprisonment of not more than 20 years for an alien convicted of a felony and sentenced to a term of imprisonment of at least 60 months; imprisonment of not more than 25 years for an alien convicted of murder, rape, kidnapping, terrorism, or three or more felonies of any kind; in addition, any alien who is removed prior to completion of a term of imprisonment who then reenters the U.S. can have the remainder of their sentence reinstated.¹⁹

Civil rights groups, including the American Civil Liberties Union, have strongly opposed Kate's Law, calling it a "shortsighted and ill-conceived response" to the young woman's slaying. They argue that it is blanket legislation that would penalize even those who come to the United States to escape persecution or victims of human trafficking. Opponents also say that the bill perpetuates the false notion that undocumented immigrants are inherently criminals. The bill passed the House on June 29, 2017 by a vote of 257-167.

Note: Jose Garcia Zarate, accused of killing Kate Steinle, was acquitted in November 2017 by a California jury. He was found guilty of being a felon in possession of a firearm. Because of the verdict, there has been considerable backlash against sanctuary cities.

In January 2018 the U.S. Department of Justice escalated its attempt to crack down on so-called "sanctuary" jurisdictions, threatening to subpoena 23 states, cities and other localities that have policies the department suspects might be unlawfully interfering with immigration enforcement.²⁰

State and Local Immigration History

The timeline attached to this report gives a select immigrant and refugee history in Oregon. The state of Oregon and Lane County specifically have a long history dealing with and integrating immigrant and refugee communities. There are many examples of discriminatory policies and movements, as well as examples of solidarity with and protecting the rights of immigrants in our communities.

Oregon's exclusionary history dates back to 1848, when Oregon's provisional government passed its first Exclusion Law, declaring it unlawful for a "negro or mulatto" to reside in the Oregon Territory. Exclusionary legislation persists throughout the decades, though its targeted populations shift, depending on the tides of immigration, migration and political and economic circumstances. For example, in the late 1800s, Oregon's rail system was constructed primarily by Chinese immigrants. Chinese workers received less pay than their white counterparts, and white workers received food and shelter, while Chinese workers had to provide their own.²¹

In both Oregon and the United States in general, as immigrant populations increase, in large part due to the demand for cheap labor and coupled with economic hardship, anti-immigrant sentiment inevitably seems to follow. By the mid 1920s, Klan membership in Oregon was the largest per capita membership of any state, and the Klan wielded significant political clout;²² the state legislature was dominated by members of the Klan, and it passed a number of restrictive laws including the Alien Land Law of 1923 that barred Japanese immigrants from owning or leasing land.²³ During WWII, thousands of Japanese Americans living in Oregon were interred, and, by the end of the war, hostilities toward Japanese Americans were widespread and Japanese internees lost all or most of their land holdings.²⁴

Between 1942 and 1947, Oregon imported over 15,000 Mexicans as farm laborers, as part of the Bracero program (referring to "brazos," or helping arms or hands). However, by the 1950s, there was backlash and places throughout Oregon where Mexican farm workers and their families were concentrated were targeted. Undocumented workers were rounded up in sweeps of local farms and deported, as part of the federal military operation called Operation Wetback. Over a million undocumented Mexicans were detained nationally.²⁵

In 1965, after decades of grassroots organizing on behalf of immigrants and other marginalized communities, locally and nationally, the federal Immigration and Nationality Act abolished the quota system for applying for citizenship and preference was given to immediate family members of immigrants and skilled workers. In Oregon, as marginalized populations gained political traction, organizations that defended their rights and political representation arose. In 1977 Willamette Valley Immigration Project (WVIP) was founded to protect and represent undocumented workers in response to an increase in Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS) raids in Oregon. As an outgrowth of WVIP, Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste (PCUN), a farm workers union of the Northwest, was formed in 1985. When the federal Immigration Reform and Control Act was passed in 1986, PCUN helped nearly 1,300 immigrants apply for residency, and more than 23,736 Mexicans and Guatemalans received permanent residency in Oregon.²⁶

Perhaps the most significant legislation of recent history in Oregon is the 1987 Oregon Sanctuary law, ORS 181A.820. Sponsored by Representative Rocky Barilla of Salem, the first Latino elected to the state house, the law states that "no law enforcement agency of the State of Oregon or of any political subdivision of the state shall use agency moneys, equipment or personnel for the purpose of detecting or apprehending persons whose only violation of law is that they are persons of foreign citizenship present in the U.S. in violation of federal immigrant laws."²⁷

Despite the above protections, anti-immigrant sentiment continued to surface during the 20th century in the form of: a) Violence against immigrants by law enforcement and racist individuals and groups; b) Anti-immigrant legislation, such as the 1996 Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act (AEDPA) that expands the grounds for detaining and deporting immigrants for relatively minor, non-violent criminal convictions;²⁸ and c) A subsequent increase in INS raids across Oregon, including raids in Lane County in 1997 and 1998 in which close to 150 immigrants were detained.²⁹

Recent Developments in the Last Decade

- 1) Ballot Measure 58 (2008), which would have prohibited teaching public school students in a language other than English for more than two years, was defeated.
- 2) Also in 2008, the Oregon legislature passed SB1080 that requires proof of legal status to get an Oregon driver's license. According to the ACLU of Oregon, though the legislation particularly targets immigrant communities, the restrictive requirements adversely affects citizens and non-citizens alike and creates unsafe road conditions because there are many more non-licensed and non-insured drivers on the road.³⁰
- 3) In 2013, the Oregon legislature passed SB 833: Safe Roads Act, creating a driver card for undocumented Oregonians. However, Oregonians for Immigration Reform, an anti-immigrant advocacy group with ties to white nationalist groups, received \$100,000 in out-of-state money to help collect signatures to refer the new law to voters on the November 2014 ballot, Measure 88. Oregon voters rejected Measure 88, thus revoking the driver card. Currently over 80,000 undocumented Oregonians have no legal way to renew their driver license.³¹
- 4) A current initiative petition, 2018-022, known as IP 22, seeks to repeal Oregon's 30-year-old sanctuary law. Sponsored by Oregon Representatives Greg Barreto, Sal Esquivel, and Mike Nearman, the ballot caption reads: "Repeals laws limiting use of state/local law enforcement resources to enforce federal immigration." The petition was approved for circulation October 11, 2017, and Oregonians for Immigration Reform are currently actively soliciting signatures. They have until July to submit the signatures required to refer it to the ballot.^{32,33}

Groups that defend the rights of all Oregonians continue to emerge. CAUSA, Oregon's statewide immigrant rights and advocacy network, was formed in 1995. In response to IP 22, CAUSA and other statewide and national partners, such as One Oregon (www.oneoregon.org) and Forward Together (forwardtogether.org), have launched an effort called "Keep Oregon a Welcoming State" and are actively building a coalition to uphold Oregon's sanctuary law and protect immigrants in our communities who contribute to our community culturally and help keep our economy strong and who, like all Oregonians, deserve to be treated with respect and appreciation.

Locally, Lane County mirrors what is happening at a statewide and national level. After the INS raids in Lane County in 1997 and 1998, CAUSA and other local groups documented in detail its unconstitutional nature, including the abuse of power by ICE officials, as well as the economic, psychological and social impact of these raids, most notably on children and mothers, who were deprived of a father/spouse and primary breadwinner and left in a state of fear and insecurity. This comprehensive report, "La Migra INS Raid Report: A socio-economic impact study, Lane County Oregon," which enumerated close to \$100,000 in taxpayer costs for these raids, was distributed widely among local and national public officials and ICE personnel and used as part of the national campaign to stop the raids, as pressure on local ICE operatives to adhere to their tenets of conduct and legal scope of authority, and as the basis for future organizing to protect vulnerable immigrant communities.^{34,35}

According to Bob Bussel, founder of Integration Network for Immigrants in Lane County, "since the contentious 2016 presidential campaign and election, anti-immigrant tensions have been flared by the rhetoric, tactics and policies of the Trump administration, and many new groups and initiatives have emerged to counter these virulent influences and protect immigrant communities from attack," including:³⁶

- 1) The Latinx Alliance, which was formed to provide additional support and coordination on behalf of Latinx families during the current administration. The Alliance has coordinated contributions for immigrant families in need, assembled Family Preparedness Packets to prepare families in the case

of deportation, advocated for sanctuary at the local and statewide levels, and facilitated community strategic planning. The Alliance meets weekly and consists of representatives from organizations that work on the front lines with Latinx families. (See the Appendix for a full list of the organizations that work with Latinx Alliance.)

- 2) A committee of the City of Eugene Human Rights Commission and interested community members was formed after the 2016 presidential election to draft an ordinance that would protect local immigrants by expanding the state sanctuary law to apply to city employees and prohibit all city employees from cooperating with federal immigration officials, unless a crime has been committed.
- 3) Friends of Sanctuary: At the first Eugene Human Rights Commission meeting after the election, a sign-up sheet was circulated and over 60 people signed up to advocate and support sanctuary in our community.³⁷ The group has continued to meet monthly and act as an ally to immigrant populations.
- 4) Sanctuary or inclusivity ordinances and resolutions were passed at the following institutions: University of Oregon in November 2016,³⁸ Lane Community College in February 2017,³⁹ Bethel School District in February 2017, 4J School District in February 2017,⁴⁰ City of Eugene in March 2017,⁴¹ Oregon Department of Education in March 2017,⁴² Springfield School District in April 2017,⁴³ South Lane School District in April 2017, Lane County Board of Commissioners in July 2017⁴⁴, and Marcola School District (in process).
- 5) On the state level on February 2, 2017, Governor Kate Brown issued executive order #17-04: Renewing Oregon's Commitment to Protecting its Immigrant, Refugee, and Religious-Minority Residents. Oregon's sanctuary law bans state and local law enforcement agencies from detaining anyone solely on the basis of an immigration violation. Brown's order expanded that ban to include all state agencies, not just law enforcement. Its statement of policy reads, "It is the policy of this State that Oregon be an inclusive jurisdiction that embraces, celebrates, and welcomes its immigrant and refugee residents and recognizes their contributions to the collective prosperity of all Oregonians."^{45,46}

This action was followed in July 2017 by the passage of HB 3464 which authorizes public bodies to decline to disclose information about a person's citizenship or immigration status unless required by state or federal law or other circumstances, such as when determining benefit eligibility. The bill also directs the attorney general to create policies intended to limit immigration enforcement at public schools, public health facilities, courthouses, public shelters and other public facilities. Proponents of the bill said the bill is about "making people feel safe." "What we're talking about here is a very simple situation. That is to allow all Oregonians to have the same rights, and to not be struggling when they decide to go to school to not give their address, or tell how many parents are in their homes because they're afraid if they do they can end up coming home and finding no parents there," said Democratic Sen. Lew Frederick. The bill was signed into law on August 15, 2017.⁴⁷

- 6) The Immigration committee of SURJ (Showing Up for Racial Justice), in partnership with CALC (Community Alliance of Lane County), initiated the revitalization of CALC's 1996 We Are Neighbors photography exhibit, featuring immigrants living in Lane County. The exhibit premiered in May 2017 at the Springfield Museum and is now a traveling exhibit.⁴⁸
- 7) CALC also produced a new play entitled *Now I Am Your Neighbor* that tells the true stories of resilience and courage of Lane County immigrants, including some of the most marginalized populations, DREAMers, undocumented immigrants, Syrian refugees, and Muslims. The play premiered in September 2017 with two encore performances in October and November, all to

- sold-out audiences. A shorter version of the play will be available to be produced at schools, churches and other public events in February 2018.⁴⁹
- 8) An immigration committee was formed at Temple Beth Israel and has been an active participant in the projects of the Latinx Alliance.
 - 9) A recent initiative of Integration Network for Immigrants in Lane County (IN) is an educational outreach to groups in the community about the politics, history, and cultural dimensions of immigration, including the contributions of immigrants, reasons why immigrants enter the U.S. without authorization and the need for comprehensive immigration reform and a legal pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants.⁵⁰
 - 10) Trainings at the Center for Legal Defense Center (CLDC) in Know your Rights for immigrants and allies.⁵¹
 - 11) Periodic presentations organized by local groups and agencies about keeping all our residents safe. For example, on 12/6/17, the City of Eugene held a bilingual question & answer session with multiple city departments including the police, fire, and human rights offices, in an effort to raise awareness about public safety in Eugene.
 - 12) The beginnings of local involvement in direct aid to refugees from the Syrian conflict began officially in April 2016, with Eugene's designation as a "Remote Resettlement Site" for refugees through the efforts of Catholic Community Services in Springfield. A new regional committee was formed – the Refugee Resettlement Coalition of Lane County (RRCLC). Catholic Community Services (CCS) was asked to take on the program by a national Catholic organization. Other faith-based organizations, including the Jewish Federation of Lane County, the First Congregational United Church of Christ, St. Mary's Episcopal Church and the Unitarian Universalist Church in Eugene are involved.⁵²
 - 13) As of May 2016, the Catholic Community Services' director announced that a total of 10 people from three families were to arrive within the next two months in Eugene. Each family had a relative living in Eugene and had requested resettlement here. Their planned arrival came after up to 24 months of vetting by the U.S. State Department. Over the last 40 years, the U.S. has generally accepted 50,000-100,000 refugees yearly. (Refugees are different from those seeking asylum in that they are accepted into the country as refugees, whereas those seeking asylum have come through their own means.)⁵³

The Unitarian Universalist (UU) Church of Eugene's Refugee Sanctuary Project was initiated in January 2016 in response to the Syrian refugee crisis. The focus of the group was to find ways to render direct aid to refugees, to combat Islamophobia, and to develop programming designed to educate the Unitarian (UU) congregation and the community at large about refugees and immigration. The UU Sanctuary Project has been a community participant in RRCLC from the earliest stages as the Coalition developed.

As our current administration has effectively closed the doors to entry of new refugee arrivals in our area, the RRCLC has likewise scaled back and retooled to focus their work with asylum seekers already living in our area. They are setting up trainings for individuals who want to work with applicants in processing paperwork and accessing resources.

One Family's Story

In late fall 2016, Unitarians were alerted to the situation of a local Syrian Kurdish asylee, I.S. (who asks not to use his name for security reasons). His story is compelling, dramatic and illustrative of the courage and determination refugees demonstrate to reach sanctuary in the United States. He and his family had fled the violence in Syria and lived in Dubai as guest workers. His employer moved him to a

job in California, and he had to leave his wife and two children temporarily in Dubai. I.S. applied for and was granted asylum in California. As immediate family of an asylee, his wife and children should have been allowed to join him in the United States. But red tape snarls kept them in Dubai. I.S. was then laid off his job and moved to Oregon looking for employment.

When the UU Refugee Sanctuary group met him, I.S. was working as temp labor, sending all his money to his family, and sleeping on a couch at the Eugene Islamic Center. The UU group invited him to come to a meeting and tell his story. The group decided that, since he was an asylee and could not qualify for assistance through CCS and RRCLC, the UU group would dedicate time, talent, energy and funds toward helping I.S. with his many pressing needs: housing, permanent employment, medical appointments and insurance, auto insurance, green card application, legal assistance. Most critically, the group began to work with the U.S. consulate in Abu Dhabi to get visas for his family.

The paperwork was still pending when the first “Muslim ban” by the current administration took effect. I.S. was coping with his wife's increasing panic as the family's status in the United Arab Emirates expired and the window of opportunity to come to the U.S. began to narrow. As many will recall, the window closed, reopened, closed and reopened. Then, suddenly the visas were issued. At short notice the UU group coordinated plane reservations from Dubai, largely funded by donations from the Eugene Islamic Center, and I.S.'s wife and children arrived in this country in mid-April 2017.

At present, I.S. and his family are at home in a Eugene apartment; his children are in school; their medical and dental needs have been met; they are lively, playful and speaking English without an accent. Their mother has been continuously enrolled at LCC's English as a Second Language (ESL) program. She has her learner's permit to drive and is speaking English. I.S. has been promoted in his place of employment, is looking for opportunities for advancement and hopes to buy a house. They have formed close bonds with members of the UU Refugee Sanctuary group. UU group members have continued to help the family with transportation, ESL classroom assistance and tutoring.⁵⁴

Discussion Questions

1. Should we provide sanctuary for undocumented immigrants?
2. What do you think of the petition initiative to repeal Oregon's sanctuary law? (page 6)
3. What might be the impact of federal defunding of sanctuary cities?
4. What steps can we take to combat anti-immigrant and anti-sanctuary sentiment?
5. Since Oregon has had a sanctuary law since 1987, why are local jurisdictions passing sanctuary ordinances?
6. What surprised you about the immigrant history of Oregon?

Thank you to the following individuals who contributed to and/or reviewed this paper: Guadalupe Quinn, coordinator, GLAD (Grupo Latino de Accion Directa); Raquel Hecht, local immigration attorney; Bob Bussel, coordinator, Integration Network for Immigrants in Lane County; and Joel Garcia Iboa, coordinator, CAUSA.

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Appendix

Glossary

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) is an executive order issued by President Obama in June 2012 and rescinded by President Trump in September 2017. Under DACA, 800,000 young people, known as **DREAMers** and brought to the U.S. as children, have been able to study, work and drive legally. 11,000 young Oregonians are DACA recipients. To qualify, they must have been in school or have graduated, be in the military or honorably discharged, and have clean criminal records. Unless Congress renews or replaces DACA, all DACA recipients will be subject to deportation when their two-year authorization expires. 318,000 will lose their status by January 2019.

Detainers are requests to ICE to hold individuals who would otherwise be released following an arrest or court appearance. ICE's use of detainers to imprison people without due process and, in many cases, without probable cause of any violation has raised serious constitutional concerns.

IP 22 (Initiative Petition 22) is proposed by **Oregonians for Immigration Reform**, an organization that has deep ties with white nationalist groups, locally, regionally and nationally, and seeks to dismantle Oregon's 30-year old sanctuary law. Through a concerted and well-funded campaign, the petition's sponsors hope to get this anti-immigrant measure on the ballot in 2018.

Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS) was dissolved in 2003, when most of its functions were absorbed by the Department of Homeland Security, following the terrorist attacks of 9/11/01, and transferred to three new entities – **U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)**, **U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)**, and **U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP)**. ICE is the agency most cited in the news regarding raids of undocumented immigrants.

Myths and Facts About Immigration (based on *They Take Our Jobs* by Aviva Chomsky, updated by Kate Gessert with information from American Friends Service Committee, Anti-Defamation League, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and others)

1. MYTH: Immigrants take American jobs.

FACT: Immigrants typically do not compete for jobs with native-born workers. Rather than taking jobs from others, *they create jobs* by purchasing goods and services and starting small businesses, and states with high immigrant populations have lower unemployment rates. Corporations relocating in pursuit of cheap, vulnerable workers are the real job-stealers.

2. MYTH: Immigrants are a drain on the economy.

FACT: Immigrants, both legal and undocumented, contribute greatly to the U.S. economy, as workers, taxpayers, entrepreneurs and consumers. They pay more in taxes than they receive in services and help to shore up Medicare and Social Security, for which undocumented immigrants are not eligible. Deporting large numbers of immigrants would be a disaster for our economy. The U.S. workforce is aging. Agriculture, construction, health care and hospitality would struggle to find enough workers. For example, Texas and Florida will depend heavily on immigrants to re-build after the hurricanes. 30% of construction workers in Florida are immigrants, 40% in Texas. If DACA is not restored, healthcare will suffer; 20% of DACA recipients have careers in healthcare.

3. MYTH: The rules apply to everyone, so new immigrants need to follow them just as immigrants in the past did. Why don't they just get in line?

FACT: "The rules" generally refer to conditions permitting open immigration of white Europeans from 1880 to World War I. "The rules" have always been different for people of color—African or Asian, or people from Mexico and Central and Latin America. Immigrants enter the U.S. without authorization because, without immigration reform, *for many there is simply no legal way to come*. U.S. law provides legal entry for family reunification, employment, and for refugees, as well as various temporary visas. All immigration categories, however, have complex requirements, subject to quotas and fraught with politics. There is a long waiting

period, often 7-20 years, even for those who meet all requirements and have a fiscal sponsor. People fleeing economic oppression and violence are not usually granted refugee status or asylum; their only option is to risk their lives entering the U.S. without documentation.

4. MYTH: The country is being overrun by illegal immigrants.

FACT: Only 5% of all workers in the U.S., approximately 3.4% of the population, are undocumented immigrants; they constitute 26% of workers in agriculture, 19% in cleaning and building maintenance, 15% in construction, 11% in food preparation, and 9% in production. (Pew Research Center, 2014.)

5. MYTH: The U.S. has a generous refugee policy.

FACT: A large majority of the 3 million + refugees admitted to the U.S. since 1975 have been from just three countries: Vietnam, the Soviet Union, and Cuba. For the U.S., “refugee” has often meant “refugee from Communism.”

6. MYTH: Today's immigrants are not learning English; bi-lingual education doesn't work.

FACT: Today's Spanish-speaking immigrants are learning English just as fast or faster than earlier generations of European immigrants did; they are also retaining their native languages, sometimes at higher rates than Europeans did. Research shows that developing academic skills in students' native languages supports their acquiring English and strengthens their understanding of the world.

7. MYTH: We need to protect our borders to prevent terrorists from entering the country.

FACT: Most of the 9/11 hijackers were in the U.S. on legal visas. Most convicted terrorists are U.S. citizens.

8. MYTH: Public figures have claimed that immigrants are “killers” and “rapists,” bringing crime to the U.S.

FACT: Study after study has shown that immigrants — regardless of where they are from, what immigration status they hold, and how much education they have completed — are less likely than native-born U.S. citizens to commit crimes or become incarcerated.

Stay Informed

- National Immigration Forum – Weekly updates available through media@immigrationforum.org
- American Immigration Council – Fact sheets at americanimmigrationcouncil.org. Text 51555 for alerts.
- CAUSA – Oregon's statewide immigration network. Email joel@causaoregon.edu to get on CAUSA's email list.
- Integration Network for Immigrants in Lane County (IN) meets monthly. Contact bussel@uoregon.edu.

Ways to Help

1. Urge Congress to pass a “clean” **Dream Act** to provide a pathway to citizenship for undocumented youth, without funds for increased immigration enforcement or a border wall.
2. **Oppose IP22**, the pending anti-immigrant ballot measure, which would overturn Oregon's longstanding sanctuary law. Join the campaign “Keep Oregon a Welcoming State” at www.oneoregon.org/take-action.
3. Support immigrant-led organizations. **LatinX Alliance** is a local coalition. For more information, email info@centrolatinoamericano.org.
4. Find venues for CALC's *We Are Neighbors* **photo exhibit** (email eheilbrun@gmail.com) and a short version of our *Now I Am Your Neighbor* **play** (email therese@picadocurtis.net), available for classes, congregations, and public events beginning in February 2018.
5. Support the **Refugee Resettlement Coalition**, www.ccscl.org/get-involved-with-the-refugee-program. Join the email list at refugee@ccscl.org.

The Following Organizations are Part of the Latinx Alliance:

- Downtown Languages (<https://downtownlanguages.org>) provides language literacy and other educational programs for immigrants.

- Grupo Latino de Accion Directa (GLAD) is an independent, non-partisan direct action advocacy group. Contact: <https://www.facebook.com/latinocommunityactiongroup>.
- Huerto de la Familia (<https://huertodelafamilia.org>) offers community gardening and organic farming business education for Latino families.
- Lane County Migrant Education (<http://www.lesd.k12.or.us/mep/>) is a project of Lane Education Service District supporting high quality education programs for migratory children.
- Centro Latino Americano (<http://centrolatinoamericano.org>) offers direct social services to Latino families in need.
- Catholic Community Services (<http://www.cclsc.org/what-we-do/creating-hope-for-tomorrow/immigration-legal-services/>) offers immigrant families access to affordable legal counsel, as well as refugee resettlement support.
- 4J and Bethel school districts
- CAUSA (www.causaoregon.org) advocates for Latino immigrants and their families in Oregon. Currently, they are building a coalition to oppose Initiative Petition 22, the pending anti-immigrant ballot measure, which would overturn Oregon's long-standing inclusivity law. Volunteer to staff phone banks and speak out against this measure. Sign up by emailing joel@causaoregon.edu.
- Integration Network for Immigrants in Lane County (sign up for mailing list at jjsmith@uoregon.edu) is a broad alliance of community groups committed to supporting successful immigrant integration. The group meets monthly at 9 a.m. on the third Wednesday at Springfield School District administrative building.

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