

The Oregonian

Portland Mayor to Sessions: 'We should embrace Dreamers, not reject them'

*By Maxine Bernstein
September 19, 2017*

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler isn't meeting with Attorney General Jeff Sessions on Tuesday, but sent a letter describing the city's commitment to diversity, defending its role as a sanctuary community and voicing his opposition to many of the Trump administration's policies.

"In Portland, we do not merely tolerate diversity, we celebrate it," Wheeler wrote. "Our local laws support these values and we are better for it."

Sessions is set to address federal law enforcement officials at 1 p.m. at the Northwest Portland field office of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Office. Local law enforcement officials are also expected to attend.

Wheeler serves as Portland's police commissioner but isn't going, his spokesman Michael Cox said. Wheeler didn't get invited, but if he had been, he wouldn't go, Cox added.

Wheeler said he strongly opposes Sessions efforts "to coerce local law enforcement agencies to enforce federal immigration laws" and the administration's "threats to punish those cities that do not" by promising to withhold federal grant money.

He said he also opposes the administration's attempts to phase out the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program, or DACA, which protects hundreds of thousands of undocumented immigrants brought to the United States as children from deportation.

"Dreamers were brought to the United States as children, through no decision of their own," Wheeler wrote. "This is the only country they have ever called home. ... We should embrace Dreamers, not reject them."

Wheeler also highlighted the importance of the city's 2014 settlement with the U.S. Department of Justice that mandates Portland police reforms after a federal investigation found that they used excessive force against people with mental illness.

"Some are concerned that the Department of Justice, under your leadership, will seek to bring a premature end to the settlement agreement," Wheeler wrote. "We ask that you allow DOJ attorneys to continue to work with our city attorneys and the Portland Police Bureau to satisfy the terms of the settlement agreement."

Sessions last week announced that the federal Office of Community Oriented Policing Services known as COPS would no longer focus on reforming police agencies and improving relations between police and communities. The office would return to its original mission, he said: providing technical training and assistance to combat violent crime.

Portland's settlement is with the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division, so isn't expected to be affected by the COPS changes, said Oregon's U.S. Attorney Billy J. Williams.

The Portland Tribune

Wheeler, Others Criticize Sessions on Day of Visit

By Nick Budnick, Lyndsey Hewitt, Jim Redden

September 19, 2017

Several groups have announced plans to protest Sessions' visit beginning at 11 a.m. Tuesday outside the Northwest Portland office of the US Citizenship and Immigration Services where the meeting will be held.

Mayor Ted Wheeler outlined Portland's disagreement with the Trump Administration on immigration issues in a letter to U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions on Monday.

The letter was released to the media before Sessions' scheduled 11 a.m. meeting with local and federal law enforcement officials. Wheelers' office said the mayor will not meet with Sessions during his visit, although top police officials are expected to do so.

Although the letter started by welcoming Sessions to Portland, it then major areas of disagreement with his positions on immigration issues:

- Portland's status as a sanctuary city that does not cooperate with federal officials on immigration-only matters, which Sessions has strongly criticized.
- Portland's participation in a lawsuit with Seattle challenging the Trump Administration's efforts to withhold federal funds from sanctuary cities.
- Support for continuing the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals policy initiated by former President Barak Obama that President Donald Trump has announced with end in six months. It shields children illegally brought into this country from deportation.

"Portland is a thriving city because we have a population with diverse backgrounds who contribute positively to the fabric of our community. Our welcoming attitude towards all residents of our community is a core component of our identity, and a key to our success," Wheeler wrote.

Wheeler also called Portland's police settlement agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice a model for other communities. The city agreed to reform the police bureau after the federal government decided it has a history of using excessive force against the mentally ill.

KOIN 6 News reports Sessions is expected to meet the head of the Portland Police Association, acting Portland police chief Mathew Wagenknecht, Portland assistant chief Chris Davis, Portland acting assistant chief Robert King, Multnomah County Sheriff Mike Reese and Washington County Sheriff Pat Garrett, who is the president of the Oregon State Sheriff's Association, among others.

Even before Wheeler released his letter, Commissioner Nick Fish criticized the visit on his Facebook page, writing, "Attorney General Sessions is in town—and we need to let him know that Portland stands with our DREAMers," which is a term commonly used to identify those protected from deportation by DACA.

And on Tuesday morning, Democratic National Committee spokesperson Vedant Patel issued the following statement:

"This trip is nothing more than another effort by Attorney General Sessions and President Trump to bully local governments into adopting the harsh, anti-immigrant policies of this

administration. Instead of focusing efforts on detaining criminals, Sessions and Trump are more concerned with tearing communities apart. This is an affront to our values as a nation. We should not be threatening the tens of thousands of Oregonian DREAMers and cities, like Portland, who stand with their immigrant communities. The Democratic Party believes our diversity is our greatest strength and will always fight for hardworking families and a smart, sensible immigration system that doesn't force millions back into the shadows."

Several groups have announced plans to protest Sessions' visit beginning at 11 a.m. Tuesday outside the Northwest Portland office of the US Citizenship and Immigration Services where the meeting will be held.

You can read Wheeler's letter at [here](#).

Willamette Week

What's the Leading Cause of Homelessness for Oregon Women?

*By Thacher Schmid
September 20, 2017*

People too often feel trapped between an abuser and the streets.

The answer, according to the Oregon Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence, is domestic violence.

Advocates say it can be the trickiest social malady to remedy—among housed or homeless populations. Part of the reason, they say, is few victims can speak the truth when their abuser is present. Another is that "abusers use that tactic of 'It's me and you against the world,'" says Jaidra Hennessey, community-based services supervisor at the YWCA.

The result? People too often feel trapped between an abuser and the streets.

When her boyfriend threatened her, says Jessica, a domestic violence victim who became homeless due to abuse, she couldn't find help.

Like the time she ran "shaking and panicking" from her boyfriend's fits of rage and physical abuse of their dog and called 911 more than once, but her cellphone's calls didn't go through.

Or the time when, pregnant and afraid, she spoke to her pastor, who told her, "God made him the way he is, and it's not his fault."

Worst of all: the closed doors at local domestic violence shelters. After giving birth in 2016, she left the hospital and moved in with her mother, afraid to bring her newborn near her boyfriend. But she couldn't stay for long at her mom's mobile home, so she called around for shelter.

"There was no capacity," she recalls. "The shelters I did call, there was no place for me. And they kept saying, 'In a month, in a month, in a month.'"

So Jessica moved back in with her boyfriend, as many victims do.

The need for domestic violence shelters continues to outstrip capacity. (Some lifelines do exist in Portland: Human Solutions Family Center, which serves families and women in their final trimester of pregnancy, became a year-round shelter in February 2016, with a policy of turning no one away.)

Last year's survey of statewide domestic violence programs by the coalition found 192 "unmet requests" for services on the day of the count. Eighty-six percent of those requests in Oregon were for housing—much higher than the same statistic for the U.S., which measured at 66 percent.

Advocates say DV victims are also among the most vulnerable people on the street, at the mercy of all kinds of bad luck and menaces.

Homelessness can even make intimate partner violence seem the safest option, says Eve, who estimates she's been with 10 abusive partners since age 16. (WW is withholding the identities of Jessica and Eve.)

"If you're homeless right now, it's probably safer to be with one abuser, because then he's going to protect you from other abusers," she says. "Unless you can get into a shelter. If you're a woman out here and you're by yourself and you're in the streets, it's not safe, dude. It's better to know what's coming than to not know."

Before her incarceration for DUI and six months' inpatient treatment, Eve couch-surfed and lived in her car but never went to a shelter, she says, "because I felt like I was 'too good.'"

She says the lives of DV survivors are especially precarious because of repeated patterns of violence. "You're not going to amount to shit," said one man who met her at the strip joint where she worked and later abused her, "because look where I met you."

"The system is set up against you," she adds. "Even if you get away from your abuser, you're treated worse sometimes by the people that are supposed to help you. They say, 'Why didn't you just leave? Why did you jeopardize your kids?' They don't understand what it's like."

Even a seemingly unrelated event—Oregon's wildfires, for example, or other natural disasters like hurricanes—can add to the chaos for someone on the run from an abusive partner.

"The wildfires that have happened this summer are putting additional stress on an already overburdened DV shelter system," says Keri Kuhn, associate director of the coalition, which represents 49 of the state's 56 domestic violence organizations.

Domestic violence and wildfires might seem only tangentially related, but Kuhn notes the wildfires have created additional scarcity and made it hard for rural staff to reach their offices.

In recent years, advocates note, new laws have been passed to help victims of domestic violence, but some landlords don't know about—or respect—those laws. One of the most important, says the YWCA's Hennessey, is a new state law that allows survivors to break their lease in 14 days with a court order.

"I've had a number of landlords say that a 14-day lease break for survivors of DV is not something that can be utilized," Hennessey says. "Obviously it can, because it's part of the revised statutes in Oregon. I'm not asking for a favor."

Another law passed locally in recent years protects survivors by making it illegal for landlords to charge survivors for damages to an apartment, or try to "steer" a victim toward a certain apartment. But Hennessey says that still happens.

"Laws change pretty quickly, and there's been a number of significant changes in the last three years, both at the state and local level," she says.

When the Gateway Center for Domestic Violence Services opened in 2012, it soon became a hub for the metro area, featuring walk-in access, navigators, security and a video conference link to

Multnomah County Circuit Court, which now issues more restraining orders each year than the downtown courthouse.

"This one was a home run, I think," says City Commissioner Dan Saltzman, who pushed for the center.

Gateway's executive director, Martha Strawn Morris, says it will see between 2,000 and 2,200 survivors this year alone. "Between 17 and 20 percent will identify as wanting a change in their housing situation," she says —430 in all.

For Eve and Jessica, it's possible such services saved their lives.

Eve turned to alcohol as a result of physical abuse, including stitches, bruises, black eyes and "trouble walking." After a DUII, Eve spent six months of inpatient rehab at LifeWorks NW's Project Network, and three months at a Salvation Army shelter.

Having a safe, reliable place to live helped Eve start her life over. She's off probation and says she's completed her college degree. "I obtained employment, I was able to stabilize myself," she says. "I've hit the ground running."

U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions Met With Contempt As He Says Portland and Oregon “Believe They Are Above The Law”

*By Katie Shepard and Nigel Jaquiss
September 19, 2017*

Roughly 300 protesters greeted U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions today, as the leading hardliner of the White House's crackdown on immigrants and refugees arrived to the decry the "sanctuary city" policy here.

"The Department of Justice will not concede a single block or street corner in the United States to lawlessness or crime," Sessions declared in his speech. "Nor will we tolerate the loss of innocent life because a handful of jurisdictions believe they are above the law."

Sessions spoke to federal law enforcement officials at the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services field office in the Pearl District.

Sessions' speech focused on sanctuary cities and states that refuse to cooperate with federal immigration agents. He reeled off a litany of violent crimes allegedly committed by undocumented immigrants, and urged Oregon and Portland officials to change their tune and cooperate with President Donald Trump's crackdown.

"Police may be forced to release pedophiles, rapists, murderers, drug dealers, and arsonists back into the communities where they had no right to be in the first place," he said, according to prepared remarks released in advance by the Justice Department. "They should according to law and common sense be processed and deported."

Sessions delivered his speech in the center's oath of citizenship room—the place where new U.S. citizens get naturalized.

"It's ironic," says Courtney Carter, an immigration and criminal defense attorney. "The place where we welcome immigrants is the place where he's going to give a speech shunning immigrants. It's hypocritical, to say the least."

Sessions stood at a wooden podium flanked by the American and Oregon state flags.

He addressed a small group of about 80 federal law enforcement officials from the FBI, ICE, DEA and U.S. Marshalls seated in the naturalization room. Protesters outside the building chanted "Out of Portland" loud enough to be heard inside the quiet room.

U.S. Attorney for Oregon Billy Williams introduced Sessions before his remarks, thanking the attorney general for his support of partnerships between law enforcement agencies.

Sessions' speech began with an emphasis on violent crime. He said violent crime was on the rise in the country and in Portland. (He did not acknowledge that Portland's murder rate remains extremely low.)

He quickly transitioned into criticizing Portland and Oregon's sanctuary city policies.

"The fundamental duty of this government is to protect the safety and the rights of its citizens," Sessions said. "But political leaders have directed state and local officers to refuse these requests... The result is that police are forced to release the criminal alien back into the community without regard to the seriousness of his crimes or the length of his rap sheet."

Sessions said the sanctuary city policies set out by politicians endanger law enforcement officers and communities.

"These policies do far greater damage than many understand," Sessions said. "At its root, they are a rejection of our immigration laws and, really, a declaration of open borders."

Sessions assured the federal law enforcement agents in the room: "We have your back."

Police locked down the neighborhood surrounding the immigration center, bottling up the crowd of protesters a block away from the site. The rear entrance of the building was blocked by two city of Portland dump trucks.

"Fuck Jeff Sessions," the crowd chanted. "Indict Trump."

The crowd behaved peacefully, and no right-wing agitators could be seen.

The local advocacy organizations Voz Hispana Cambio Comunitario, Milenio, and Portland's Resistance organized the protests to oppose Sessions for his stances on immigration enforcement and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals. The organizers urged local officials to refuse meetings with Sessions during his visit.

Mayor Ted Wheeler released a letter this morning saying he would not meet with Sessions and reiterating his support for Portland's sanctuary city status and his support of DACA. "I strongly oppose the Trump administration's efforts to coerce local law enforcement agencies to enforce federal immigration laws," he wrote.

Portland's local officials have generally opposed the aggressive approach to border enforcement that the Department of Justice has endorsed under the Trump administration.

The city has also joined Seattle in a lawsuit challenging President Donald Trump's executive order that would strip sanctuary cities of some federal funding for refusing to cooperate with federal immigration authorities. Last week, an Illinois District Court judge issued a nationwide injunction that puts Trump's move to withdraw federal funds on hold.

Despite the fight over immigration, Portland has been working closely with the DOJ to comply with a 2011 settlement over in the Portland Police Bureau's pattern of violence against people suffering from mental illness. The settlement agreement between the DOJ and the city requires PPB to implement changes in policy to improve the bureau's practices.

Sessions did not discuss the DOJ settlement in his speech. Instead, he focused on immigration and sanctuary policies, striking a strident tone in a hostile city.

"Sanctuary policies endanger us all," he said, "and especially the federal immigration officers who are forced to pursue criminal aliens outside of jails and prisons."

The Portland Mercury

Jeff Sessions Delivers a Drawling, Hysterical, Fear-Mongering Message to Portland

*By Dirk VanderHart
September 19, 2017*

Jeff Sessions had fear-mongering tidings of doom for Portland's immigrant-protecting officials. So where better to deliver it than the Pearl District room where the country's newest citizens are sworn in?

Before a packed audience of dark suits—many of them from US Immigration and Customs Enforcement—the attorney general paid a special visit to our defiant sanctuary of a city this afternoon, railing on about the dangers of protecting undocumented immigrants who might be "pedophiles, rapists, murderers, drug dealers, and arsonists."

Sanctuary cities like Portland, Sessions insisted in a speech that lasted roughly 20 minutes, are "a trafficker, smuggler, or gang member's best friend."

It was a chiding message of despair delivered in an appropriately ironic location. The room where Sessions spoke is known to employees of United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) as the "Oath Room" or "Ceremony Room." When new citizens are sworn in in Portland—two or three times a week—they often do it here.

As the attorney general railed on about a society he says has "eroding" discipline and a "disturbing disrespect for law," a crowd of more than 150 gathered near the Pearl District USCIS field office to decry the message. It was pretty obvious, after all, what Sessions was going to say.

Since taking over as attorney general, Sessions has railed repeatedly against "sanctuary" jurisdictions that decline to cooperate with immigration agents.

Portland and Multnomah Count are no different than liberal bastions around the country that have earned the Trump Administration's ire for expressly refusing to cooperate. Portland even joined up with a lawsuit against administration threats to cut federal funding to sanctuary cities—a point Sessions noted in his speech.

Sessions has reason to be particularly interested in our city and state, which he repeatedly called "wonderful" (or the closest approximation of that word his deep drawl will allow). The arrest this summer of a 20-time deportee who's now accused of sexually assaulting two women has become a point of emphasis for people who support Trump's ugly characterizations of undocumented immigrants as rapists. It's become a go-to anecdote for Sessions too. During an August 16 speech

in Miami, the attorney general used the Sergio Martinez case to argue the dangers not cooperating with the feds. He repeated much of that speech today.

"Federal immigration authorities properly lodged a detainer against Martinez just a few months before, asking to be notified when he was set to be released. But authorities in Oregon refused," Sessions said in the August speech (he said basically the same thing today, with minor changes). "These policies of sanctuary cities do far broader damage to the country than many understand. At its root, it is a rejection of our immigration laws and a declaration of open borders."

Since 1987, the state of Oregon has had laws on the books that say local law enforcement won't turn undocumented immigrants over to federal officials if the only thing they're accused of are immigration violations. A 2014 ruling from a local federal judge went further, saying sheriffs could not hold people for federal immigration authorities past their slated release date, absent a federal warrant.

Since Trump took office, Mayor Ted Wheeler, Multnomah County Chair Deborah Kafoury, and Sheriff Mike Reese, and others have indicated they support going further in not cooperating with federal officials.

Wheeler, rather than meeting up with the attorney general on today's visit, instead sent a letter laying out his support for sanctuary policies. And Reese's department currently refuses to tell ICE when undocumented defendants are being released from jail, and forces the feds to scour jail rolls to determine if subjects of interest are in custody—a policy that has Sessions upset.

"Think about that: Police may be forced to release pedophiles, rapists, murderers, drug dealers, and arsonists back into the communities where they had no right to be in the first place," he said.

The well-worn territory Sessions plumbed in his speech isn't likely to have much sway on local officials' opinions, which are based in the common sense belief that undocumented immigrants who are crime victims or need government services will go without if they're worried about being reported to federal agents. Sessions pooh-poohed that idea today, and his message explicitly ignored the harm that is being done to families who have undocumented members deported for low-level offenses.

Instead, he said, sanctuary policies "undermine the moral authority of law and undermine the safety of jurisdictions that follow these ideas. Whatever the crime rate is in a city, you can be sure it will be higher if these policies are followed."

To drive home that point, the attorney general engaged in a bit of cherry picking and obfuscation. Between 2013 and 2015, he said, "the city saw an increase in homicides of more than 140 percent."

That's not true. In 2013, the city saw 16 homicides, its lowest number in four decades. In 2015, the number had indeed risen markedly—but not by as much as Sessions claims. The 34 homicides that year amount to a 113 percent increase, not 140 percent. And by the way: 2015 appears to be an outlier. News reports suggest there were 20 homicides last year.

Update: We got official figures from the Portland Police Bureau, which says that in fact there were 32 homicides in 2015, not 34 (that figure doesn't include "negligent homicides" according to spokesperson Sgt. Chris Burley). That means the number of homicides increased 100 percent from 2013 to 2015—again, not 140 percent.

In addition, there were 16 homicides last year, according to PPB, precisely matching 2013's tally.

Burley adds: "Comparing July 2015 to July 2016 and July 2016 to July 2017 the homicide rate decreased 13% in Portland."

The Portland Observer

Sessions Visit Met With Resistance

*By Danny Peterson
September 19, 2017*

Mayor, protestors, oppose Trump official's plea

Portland pushed back against Jeff Sessions who visited Portland Monday to meet with law enforcement officials to ask them to cooperate with the Trump Administration to enforce their immigration policies.

Demonstrators from Portland's Resistance, Milenio, Voz Hispana Cambio Comunitario and others were present at all stages of Sessions' visit to protest his anti-immigration policies, criminal justice initiatives, racism, and the Trump Administration in general.

Mayor Ted Wheeler, who refused to attend the meeting in protest, sent a letter to Sessions outlying why he opposed meeting with him and clarifying Oregon's sanctuary laws.

Oregon state law dating back to 1987 prohibits state and local police from enforcing federal immigration law," Wheeler wrote.

Wheeler also said he opposes the Trump Administration's threats to pull funding from sanctuary cities and states and condemned the administration's revocation of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), which protects child immigrants, known as "Dreamers," from being deported.

"Dreamers were brought to the United States as children, through no decision of their own. This is the only country they have ever called home. Dreamers today are applying their talents to make a positive difference in our society. We should embrace Dreamers, not reject them," Wheeler said.

OPB

US Attorney General Jeff Sessions Attacks Sanctuary Cities in Portland

*By Ericka Cruz Guevarra and Conrad Wilson
September 20, 2017*

U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions spoke with federal employees and law enforcement officials in Portland Tuesday, where he delivered an attack on sanctuary policies that protect immigrants from deportation.

"Such policies undermine the moral authority of law and undermine the safety of the jurisdictions that adopt them," Sessions said at the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services office in Portland's Pearl District.

Sessions' speech — made in a sanctuary city, in a sanctuary state — took place in USCIS's "oath room" where people are sworn in to become citizens multiple times each week.

For the last 30 years, Oregon has been a sanctuary state. Local law enforcement agencies are prohibited from using their resources to enforce federal immigration law, if a person's only crime is that they entered the country illegally.

"These policies hinder the work of federal law enforcement, they're contrary to the rule of law and they have serious consequences for the law-abiding residents of Oregon," Sessions said. "I urge the city of Portland, the state of Oregon, and every sanctuary jurisdiction to reconsider."

That request comes on the heels of an injunction by a judge that said the federal government cannot withhold public safety dollars from sanctuary cities.

Outside, about 100 protestors held back by barricades and police spoke out against Sessions' visit.

A coalition of activist and immigrant rights groups that included Portland's Resistance, Voz Hispana Cambio Comunitario and Milenio, gathered outside the USCIS building to demonstrate.

"Say it loud, say it clear, all immigrants are welcome here," the protesters chanted.

The groups called Sessions' meeting with local officials "potentially dangerous," saying he could encourage local officials to enforce federal immigration policies, despite Portland's — and, more broadly, Oregon's — sanctuary status.

The protest also drew elected officials and hopefuls, including Multnomah County Commissioner Sharon Meieran and Dorothy Gasque, a congressional candidate for Washington state's 3rd district.

Before the meeting, the groups leading the protest called on invited law enforcement and government employees to not attend the event. They urged city leaders to denounce a visit with someone "whose policies are in direct opposition to that of our own."

Neither Oregon Gov. Kate Brown nor Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler met Sessions, the highest profile Trump administration official to visit the state.

Brown said she requested to meet with Sessions during his visit, but she never got a response from the attorney general or his staff.

The Democratic governor said Tuesday during a press conference at the state Capitol that if she had been granted a meeting, she would have given Sessions an earful.

"Oregon is a state that welcomes and wants to encourage our immigrant and our refugee communities," Brown said. "We see them as a very important part of Oregon's cultural and economic fabric, and they're part of what makes Oregon unique."

Wheeler also said he wasn't welcoming Sessions' message.

"I strongly oppose the Trump administration's efforts to coerce local law enforcement agencies to enforce federal immigration laws," Wheeler said.

In his speech, Sessions also addressed the issue of detainer requests from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Those are requests ICE sends to local jails to hold someone when they think the jail has someone in its custody who is in the country illegally.

"But political leaders have directed state and local officers to refuse these requests," Sessions said. "Cooperation has been a key element in informed crime fighting for decades."

In 2014, a federal court judge in Oregon ruled ICE detainers weren't a legally sufficient way to hold a person in jail. Following the ruling, all Oregon sheriffs stopped honoring detainers from ICE. Law enforcement agencies in Washington and California also followed suit.

"The result is that police are forced to release the criminal alien back into the community without regard to the seriousness of his crimes or the length of his rap sheet," Sessions said. "They should, according to law and common sense, be processed and deported."

Following his speech, Sessions met with several sheriffs from the Portland area.

Multnomah County Sheriff Mike Reese said in a statement that Sessions "refused to acknowledge" the 2014 court ruling during the closed door meeting.

"We are not the de facto arm of federal immigration," Reese wrote.

Sessions has criticized Portland in the past for not sharing all types of immigration information with federal agents.

On Tuesday, he brought up the case of Sergio Martinez as an example of the problems presented by sanctuary policies. Martinez was released from jail after he'd been deported several times. Upon his latest release, Martinez allegedly went on to assault two women before being arrested again.

Despite his criticisms of sanctuary policies and those who support them, Sessions praised law enforcement.

"We all know law enforcement is not the problem," he said Tuesday in Portland. "The problem is the policies that tie your hands. Sanctuary policies endanger us all, and especially the federal immigration officers who are forced to pursue criminal aliens outside of jails and prisons."

Reese also took to Twitter to criticize Sessions' speech.

"If the administration wants to make controversial & dangerous changes to immigration enforcement, they should convince Congress instead of leaning on local law enforcement," he tweeted.

Efforts are underway in Oregon to repeal the state's sanctuary law. But, at least for the moment, state leaders appear to be unconvinced of the Trump administration's arguments that sanctuary policies lead to more violent crime.