



February 2, 2023

Senator Kayse Jama
Chair, House Committee on Housing and Homelessness
900 Court St NE, S-409
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for Senate Bill 599

Dear Chair Jama and Members of the Committee:

The Oregon Housing Alliance urges your support of Senate Bill 599, which will simultaneously provide desperately needed childcare services in our neighborhoods and generate income for tenants.

Our coalition of some 100 members includes local jurisdictions, grassroots community groups, and housing developers and providers from across the state. From these various positions within Oregon's affordable housing landscape, our members have endorsed SB 599 as a priority for the 2023 legislature.

Renters around the state are struggling to make ends meet, with rising rents being a primary driver of housing insecurity and displacement. This bill provides a means for some tenants to increase their incomes by operating home-based childcare businesses. This income can support tenants' ability to remain in their homes.

Tenants who run or work for other kinds of businesses – jobs that can be done remotely from a desk with an internet connection – are already able to work from their rental homes with no questions asked. Home-based childcare businesses, however, which are often owned by women of color and provide childcare services for families of color, can currently be prohibited by landlords. SB 599 addresses this source of racial disparity, putting home-based childcares on equal footing with other home-based businesses.

We urge you to join the Oregon Housing Alliance in prioritizing passage of SB 599.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cameron Herrington", written in a cursive style.

Cameron Herrington
Director of Policy and Advocacy
cherrington@neighborhoodpartnerships.org