SUBJECT: Support for SB 599

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Amanda Orozco, and I am writing in strong support of SB 599, which ensures that all Oregonians have access to fair housing, regardless of their immigration status. As a concerned citizen with deep family ties to immigration, this issue is personal to me. My family immigrated to the United States from both Mexico and Sweden, and through hard work and perseverance, they are now proud homeowners. Their journey has given me an immense appreciation for the contributions that immigrants make to our society, both economically and culturally.

SB 599 addresses a critical gap in our state's housing laws by prohibiting landlords from inquiring about or discriminating against tenants based on their immigration status. Stable housing is foundational to economic security, public health, and overall well-being. Yet, many immigrant families experience unjust housing discrimination, leading to increased vulnerability to eviction, homelessness, and exploitation.

While I myself may not be an immigrant, I have so much sympathy for immigrants who come to Oregon seeking better opportunities and stability for their families. They contribute so much to our communities, and they deserve the same fair access to housing as anyone else. SB 599 ensures that landlords accept a variety of identification documents to verify an applicant's identity, rather than requiring proof of citizenship. This aligns Oregon with best practices already implemented in states like New York, California, Washington, and Illinois, reinforcing our commitment to fair and inclusive housing policies.

Housing is a human right. By passing SB 599, we take a necessary step toward making Oregon a more just and equitable place to live. I urge you to support this bill and stand in solidarity with the thousands of families who contribute to our communities and deserve the dignity of stable housing.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Amanda Orozco