



To: Senate Committee on Judiciary
From: Oregon Education Association
Re: Support for SB 599 (2025)

Members of the Committee,

The Oregon Education Association represents nearly 42,000 educators and staff from K-12 to 11 of our state's community colleges. I am writing in support of SB 599: to ensure that all Oregonians have access to fair housing, regardless of their immigration or citizenship status.

While most housing providers already adhere to best practices and do not discriminate on the basis of citizenship or immigration status, passage of the bill ensures that these principles are codified in our state statute and sends a protective and inclusive message to our communities. Oregon has a long history of promoting inclusivity and protecting vulnerable populations. In dark times, Oregon has been a beacon of hope to many – it's important that we continue to be that beacon right now.

Our members see first-hand the struggles that families and students face when it comes to housing affordability. By removing immigration or citizenship status as a barrier, SB 599 helps stabilize families who may otherwise be at risk of eviction or homelessness due to discrimination. This, in turn, will lead to more secure communities.

This bill is modeled after a provision in local ordinance in the City of Portland that has been in effect for years and extends statewide protections. Additionally, four other states have similar statewide protections: New York, Washington, California and Illinois).

OEA strongly urges your support of SB 599.