

March 4, 2025

TO: Senate Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Ali King, on behalf of Our Children Oregon's 2025 Children's Agenda

SUBJECT: Support for SB 599

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

My name is Ali King and I am the Policy and Advocacy Director for Our Children Oregon (OCO), a statewide organization that advances equitable policies, data and research, and whole-child advocacy. The Children's Agenda, convened annually by OCO, brings together more than 135 organizations statewide to create a holistic legislative agenda dedicated to improving the wellbeing of Oregon's children, youth, and families. **SB 599 is prioritized in the 2025 Children's Agenda and has strong and broad support from our partner organizations across Oregon.**

Throughout my career as a Congressional Caseworker and Policy and Advocacy Director, I have seen firsthand the contributions immigrants and refugees make to our communities and the challenges they face. 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.

In Oregon, 21% of children come from immigrant families and 29% of children in immigrant families have resident parents that are not US citizens as of 2022¹. A significant portion of Oregon's youth are vulnerable to increased housing instability without this bill. In Oregon, housing instability is linked to poor physical and mental health outcomes, which leads to various other issues, including lower rates of attendance in school and declining educational outcomes for youth.

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 statutes and sends a protective and inclusive message to our communities. Oregon has a long history of promoting inclusivity and protecting vulnerable populations and this bill is a natural extension of those values.

We appreciate the work you do for Oregon's families and children.

We strongly urge you to support SB 599 to ensure that all Oregonians have access to fair housing.

Sincerely,

Our Children Oregon

Stable Homes for Oregon Families

Fair Shot Coalition

Baby Blues Connection

Black Parent Initiative

Center for Childhood Safety and Wellbeing

Children's Institute

Housing Oregon

Latino Network

¹<https://datacenter.aecf.org/data/tables/115-children-in-immigrant-families?loc=1&loct=2#detailed/2/39/false/1095.2048.1729.37.871.870.573.869.36.868/any/445.446>

Neighborhood Partnerships
Next Up Action Fund
Nurse-Family Partnership
Oregon Association of Relief Nurseries
Oregon Association of Student Councils
Oregon Center for Public Policy
Oregon Community Alliance of Tenants
Oregon Food Bank
Oregon Housing Alliance
Oregon Primary Care Association
Oregon School Nurses' Association
Oregon Sexual Assault Task Force
Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon
Prevent Child Abuse Oregon
Southern Oregon Success
Urban League of Portland

View the [2025 Children's Agenda](#)