

Submitter: Rowan Schwartz

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB599

Re: Support for SB 599

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

I am writing in strong support of SB 599, to ensure that all Oregonians have access to fair housing, regardless of their immigration or citizenship status.

I am a resident who believes strongly that everyone who lives, works, goes to school, has family, or otherwise call Oregon their home is a neighbor of mine, and integral to my community. It is in the best interest of all communities and families that those who live here are able to access housing. Protecting the rights of those who live in our state against discrimination is critical to ensuring that all of our neighbors are able to have safe and dignified living conditions that all people are entitled to. Not only is this important because people are important, but it also economically just makes sense to ensure people are not discriminated out of access to housing. It promotes better health outcomes, reduces homelessness and violence, and benefits overall public health when everyone can have a safe home to sleep.

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.

It is for these reasons, that I support SB599.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rowan