



Date: March 5, 2025

To: Senate Committee On Judiciary

From: Hayley Banyai-Becker, Political and Legislative Organizer, AFT-Oregon

Re: Support for SB 599

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

AFT-Oregon is a federation of 27 local unions representing 18,000 education workers across early learning, K-12 classified, community colleges, and public universities. Our membership includes faculty, academic professionals, classified staff, and childcare workers in both public and private sectors. We are writing in strong support of SB 599, to ensure that all Oregonians have access to fair housing, regardless of their immigration or citizenship status.

AFT-Oregon holds the belief that immigrants bolster our communities and play a crucial role in the successful operation of our state. As the federal government continues to implement policies that are misaligned with our state's values, we have a responsibility to provide the highest level of protection to all residents. Stable housing is a necessity for all Oregonians if our state is to be a place where everyone has the opportunity to prosper. This includes ensuring access to housing for all, regardless of immigration 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 statutes and sends a protective and inclusive message to our communities.

The bill is modeled after a provision in [local ordinance](#) in the City of Portland that has been in effect for years, and extends that protection statewide, ensuring consistency of protections across all communities. Four other states have similar statewide protections. (NY, WA, CA, IL)

For all of these reasons, we urge your strong support of this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony and for your service to Oregon communities.

Sincerely,

AFT-Oregon

<https://www.aft-oregon.org/about-aft-oregon>