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for Affordable Housing*

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*Kristy Willard,
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*Jessica Blakely -
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*Julie Delgado, The
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*Aubre Dickson -
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Rita Grady - Polk CDC

*Maria Elena Guerra -
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*Jackie Keogh -
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*Erica Ledesma -
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*Margaret Salazar -
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*Sheila Stiley - NW
Coastal Housing*

March 4, 2025

Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher, and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

My name is Kevin Cronin, and I serve as the Director of Policy and Advocacy at Housing Oregon. Housing Oregon represents over 120 nonprofit housing providers across the state, including affordable housing landlords who collectively serve thousands of low-income Oregonians. On average, our members' rents are affordable to households making just 37% of the area median income, according to a 2022 study.

I am writing today in strong support of Senate Bill 599, which ensures that no one is denied housing based on their immigration status.

We know this approach works because Oregon has already done it before. The City of Portland adopted a similar local ordinance years ago, and it has been successful in ensuring fair access to housing. Beyond Oregon, states like New York, Washington, California, and Illinois have all implemented similar protections. SB 599 follows in that same tradition, ensuring that landlords across the state do not deny people housing based on immigration status.

It is also important to clarify that this bill does not interfere with federal housing programs. Some Housing Oregon members are required by federal law to ask about immigration status as a condition of participation in programs like HUD rental assistance. SB 599 does not prohibit these federally required inquiries and will not create compliance issues for affordable housing providers participating in those programs.

We appreciate the Oregon Law Center's work on this issue to ensure the bill is clear and workable for landlords and housing providers alike. We also appreciate this committee's thoughtful approach in crafting this legislation.

Housing Oregon urges the passage of SB 599 to ensure that all Oregonians, regardless of immigration status, have equal access to stable housing.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kevin Cronin
Director of Policy and Advocacy
Housing Oregon