



March 3, 2025

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.

CAT is Oregon's only statewide tenant-led renters' rights group. We serve thousands of tenants annually with education and referral services to support housing stability.

CAT partners with culturally specific organizations that serve immigrant and refugee-tenants. We have observed that immigrant and refugee households experience a higher level of illegal housing discrimination. These are households that may have less access to landlord tenant knowledge due to language or other barriers.

Current federal fair housing law makes discrimination on the basis of race and national origin illegal. In our work with landlords we know that many landlords 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. We believe that there are many documents that satisfy the landlords need to confirm someone's identity for the purpose of a landlord tenant contract. This law gives a landlord many options while also respecting the rights of immigrants to rent in Oregon.

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)

The mission of CAT is to educate and empower tenants to demand safe, stable and affordable rental homes. Advocating for laws that strengthen Oregon's adherence to federal Fair Housing law through the landlord tenant act affirms our mission.

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,



Kim McCarty

Executive Director
Community Alliance of Tenants
kmccarty@oregoncat.org