

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

My name is Brooke Hill, and I appreciate the opportunity to submit written testimony to your committee today. I am writing on behalf of Oregon AFSCME, Oregon's third largest labor union. We represent over 39,000 workers in both public and private sectors. We believe in economic justice for all and stable, supportive housing for everyone in our communities.

Oregon AFSCME, in coalition with several other organizations promoting housing and economic equity, urges the committee's strong support of SB 599. This bill would protect all Oregonians' right to access fair housing, regardless of their immigration or citizenship status. As a representative of a diverse group of workers statewide, AFSCME cares deeply about housing policy. The availability of safe and affordable housing in our state is a net benefit to all Oregon communities. Most housing providers in Oregon already adhere to these practices and do not discriminate based on immigration status. Passage of this bill would codify these important principles in statute, sending a strong message of protection and inclusion to our communities.

SB 599 solidifies the Landlord Tenant Act to state that a landlord may not inquire about an individual's immigration or citizenship status. It also states that a landlord must accept an alternate form of identity verification, like a visa or ITIN number, in lieu of a document like a driver's license, which requires proof of citizenship to obtain. The bill is modeled after a local City of Portland ordinance that has been in effect for years, and extends that protection statewide, ensuring consistent application across all communities. Our neighbors in California and Washington have already adopted similar statewide policies and have seen success as well.

Thank you all for your time and attention to this important issue. I appreciate the opportunity and am proud to join our partner organizations in support of SB 599.

Sincerely,
Brooke Hill
AFSCME Political Team