

Testimony in Support of Fair Housing for All (SB 599)
River Scholl
March 4th, 2025

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in Support of Fair Housing for All (SB 599). My name is River Scholl and I am a resident in Hillsboro.

As someone who has faced housing discrimination due to having children, I know how traumatic it is to lose housing opportunities for someone judging your family. No one should have to face discrimination for the makeup of their family. Landlords should be focused on whether someone can afford the rent, not on the private information of individuals. 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.

We need anti-discrimination laws for all so please pass SB 599.