

Testimony in Support of Fair Housing for All (SB 599)
Amber Boydston
March 5th, 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 Amber Boydston and I am a resident in Portland.

I work with community as well as an organization dedicated to equitable and fair housing access. It's essential that Oregon enhances our already existing protections for migrant, refugee, and undocumented tenants to access housing without fear of being discriminated against for their immigration status. I work directly with youth who live in fear of unethical deportation and this ongoing stress impacts their brains putting them in fight or flight modes and making everyday life that much harder to manage as a young person. We need SB 599 to prohibit landlords from asking about migrant, refugee, and undocumented tenant's status, using their immigration status to threaten them, while broadening the list of acceptable Identification so that someone doesn't need to have a Social Security Number to be a renter. This will directly help make Oregon a stronger Sanctuary State for those who are under attack from the federal government.

I urge you to pass SB 599.