

Testimony in Support of Fair Housing for All (SB 599)
Jay Tomlinson
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 Jay Tomlinson and I am a resident in Portland.

I have worked in housing and with the homeless populations for 5 years. While working in shelters, the difficulties certain people face in getting off the streets was shocking. The barriers are extremely unnecessary and make my job much harder. These people are always hard working, tax paying, honest people that just want to provide a safe home for their families. The sweetest people I have ever had the privilege of working with have been immigrants and sending them back out into the streets is heartbreaking. When landlords can refuse families simply because of where they were born, the strain on our systems and the amount of human suffering in our communities increases drastically. We must make it unlawful to discriminate based on immigration status. These protections have been of great benefit in Portland and the rest of Oregon deserves the same protections.

Please champion and support SB 599 so that all families living and keeping our state running have equal opportunity to live housed and happy lives.