

March 3, 2025

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

The Fair Shot For All Coalition strongly supports SB 599.

Every Oregonian, regardless of where they were born, which city they live in, or who their landlord is, should have the same protections against discriminatory housing practices.

Historic and ongoing housing segregation and discrimination have prevented BIPOC, immigrant, LGBTQ+, and other communities from having equal access to safe and stable housing in our country and state. When landlords or housing providers discriminate against individuals based on perceived or actual immigration status, it compounds economic disparities. Our affordable housing shortage disproportionately affects BIPOC and immigrant communities, limiting their housing choices and economic opportunities.

While many of these forms of discrimination are now prohibited, state law does not prevent discrimination based on immigration status. And, while some local governments have taken the step of prohibiting housing discrimination based on immigration status, and many landlords have adopted this as best practice, the legislature should ensure that every Oregonian, in every corner of our state, has the same protections.

SB 599 would ensure that regardless of where someone lives or who their landlord is, they are protected from discriminatory rental practices that prevent every Oregonian from meeting their basic human need for housing.

The bill will amend the Landlord-Tenant Act to provide that a Landlord may not inquire about, or disclose with intent to harm, a tenant or applicant's immigration or citizenship status; a Landlord may not discriminate against a tenant or applicant based on immigration or citizenship status. SB 599 also updates the list of documents a landlord must accept to verify the identity of an applicant.

Immigrants have and continue to make significant contributions to Oregon's economy and society. SB 799 will prevent discriminatory rental practices and will reduce homelessness and economic hardship for Oregonians.

We strongly urge your support of SB 599.

