



March 5, 2025

To: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Subject: Support SB 599- Fair Housing for All Oregonians

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

My name is Cynthia Ramirez and I am a Policy Associate with PCUN, Oregon's Farmworker Union. At PCUN, we work to empower farmworkers and Latinx working families to improve their working and living conditions through community building, organizing, and policy advocacy.

Today, I am testifying on behalf of PCUN in support of SB 599, to ensure that all Oregonians have access to fair housing, regardless of their immigration status. Our members have voted to make housing justice one of our top priorities and we believe that no one should be denied a home simply because of their immigration status.

As it currently stands, undocumented Oregonians; our neighbors, coworkers, and loved ones who work, pay taxes, and contribute to the economy just like everyone else, are systematically excluded from access to housing. This exclusion is not accidental. It is the result of policies that treat housing as a commodity rather than a human right. We know that despite this current reality, access to housing should not be determined by a person's place of birth and much less a piece of paper.

Farmworkers, who sustain Oregon's agricultural industry and put food on our tables, are often told they are good enough to labor in Oregon's fields but not good enough to rent or buy a home. SB 599 is about ending this blatant injustice. It ensures that no one is pushed into precarious housing or denied a home simply because of where they were born. It prohibits landlords from using immigration status as a barrier to stable housing and reinforces what should already be clear: every person, regardless of status, deserves to live with dignity and security.

SB 599 is a necessary step toward dismantling systemic barriers and affirming that all Oregonians, regardless of where they were born, deserve a safe place to live. No one should be denied housing because of an arbitrary status imposed on them by a broken immigration system. Passing this bill is not just about fairness, it is about recognizing the humanity of our vital immigrant communities.

I urge you to support SB 599 because all Oregonians deserve housing regardless of immigration status.

Thank you,

Cynthia Ramirez
Policy Associate
PCUN