



**OFFICE of EQUITY
and HUMAN RIGHTS**
CITY OF PORTLAND

City Administrator:
Michael Jordan
Interim Director:
Jeff Selby



March 5, 2025

Senate Committee on Judiciary
900 Court Street NE, HR E Salem, OR 97301

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

On behalf of the City of Portland's Office of Equity and Human Rights, I am writing to express our support of SB 599.

The City of Portland remains steadfast in its commitment to supporting immigrant and refugee communities. This city government-wide commitment includes adhering to laws and institutionalizing policies and procedures that ensure non-discrimination. Access to housing is a human right and the Office of Equity along with multiple other city bureaus uphold the importance of national origin discrimination protections in access to housing.

We support SB 599 because it seeks to enhance tenant protections by prohibiting landlords from inquiring about, disclosing, or rejecting applicants based on their immigration status. This will serve as a critical safeguard against the unnecessary disclosure of immigration status, ensuring that individuals are not discriminated against and excluded from housing opportunities. People have a right to access housing regardless of immigration status; in a time where immigrant and refugee communities face retaliation and persecution based on their immigration status, it is imperative for the state to invest in robust protections to support and uphold these communities and their right to fair housing. By promoting equity in tenant screening practices and mitigating fears of housing discrimination, SB 599 fosters greater stability and inclusivity for immigrant and refugee communities. This state-level commitment aligns with the discrimination protections of the Fair Housing Act, which states that discrimination based on immigration status amounts to national-origin discrimination,

We urge your support on SB 599.

Sincerely,

Jeff Selby
Director, Office of Equity and Human Rights

Source: [Housing Discrimination Under the Fair Housing Act | HUD.gov / U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development \(HUD\)](#)

The City of Portland ensures meaningful access to City programs, services, and activities to comply with Civil Rights Title VI and ADA Title II laws and reasonably provides: translation, interpretation, modifications, accommodations, alternative formats, auxiliary aids and services. To request these services, contact 311 (503-823-4000), for Relay Service & TTY: 711