

Submitter: Jay Tomlinson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB599

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

I am writing in strong support of SB 599, to ensure that all Oregonians have access to fair housing, regardless of their immigration or citizenship status.

I've worked in housing for 5 years. In that time, I have worked with many families hoping to transition them off the streets into permeant, stable housing. I have worked with people of all immigration statuses. These families and people are deserving of stable housing. They are hardworking and striving for a better life, the same as anyone else. There is no reason they should be pointlessly blocked from housing because of immigration status.

While many housing providers already adhere to best practices and do not discriminate on the basis of citizenship or immigration status, passage of the bill ensures that these principles are codified in our state statutes and sends a protective and inclusive message to our communities.

The bill is modeled after a provision in local ordinance in the City of Portland that has been in effect for years, and extends that protection statewide, ensuring consistency of protections across all communities. Four other states have similar statewide protections. (NY, WA, CA, IL)

Help these honest families protect their children and futures.

For all of these reasons, we urge your strong support of this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony and for your service to Oregon communities.

Sincerely,

Jay Tomlinson