



March 7, 2025

Oregon Legislature – 2025 Legislative Session
Senate Committee on Judiciary
c/o Committee Chair Senator Floyd Prozanski

Dear Senator Prozanski and members of the committee,

My name is Katrina Holland. I serve as Interim Director of Housing Programs at the Urban League of Portland. We serve thousands of Oregonians across the state with a myriad of housing services including housing placement, eviction prevention, and wraparound case management.

We have the opportunity to see, firsthand, the significant devastation a lack of housing access can create. In 2025, after several rounds of civil rights advancements in our country over several decades, it is unthinkable that we must push forward an initiative to protect immigrant families just for doing what all humans do, which is put a roof over their heads. And yet, here we are submitting testimony for legal protections against discriminatory practices for fellow human beings.

We hope this is an easy conversation around ensuring that everyone – regardless of where they come from – should have the ability to pay for a roof over their head without significant question. A person's immigration status is separate from the human need for a consistent place to lay their head at night and call home. A person's immigration status is separate from their ability to pay rent.

Housing owners, property managers, landlords, are not endowed with power or authority to adjudicate a dispute about such matters. That said, we know too many stories about where these actors attempt to do so which has the real implication of keeping someone in homelessness. This is unacceptable and we believe SB599 is a step forward in the right direction to remedy these heinous actions.

Sincerely,

Katrina Holland
Interim Director of Housing Programs
503-913-5391
kholland@ulpdx.org