



Support Senate Bill 599
Senate Committee on Judiciary
March 7th, 2025

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

My name is Arielle Hacker and I am the Strategic Initiatives Coordinator at Prevent Child Abuse Oregon (PCA Oregon) - a statewide nonprofit dedicated to child and family wellbeing through community-based, comprehensive, primary prevention strategies. I respectfully submit this testimony in support of SB 599, which prohibits landlords from inquiring about or disclosing immigration status and from rejecting applicants based on that status. At PCA Oregon, we believe access to housing is a human right, and that all Oregonians deserve access to fair housing regardless of immigration or citizenship status.

I'm a social worker by profession. I have dedicated years of my life to supporting folks in getting access to safe and stable housing. Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs indicates that people must satisfy and have access to basic physiological needs—like breathing, eating, drinking, sleeping, **and having stable housing**—before they can successfully attend to successively higher needs such as employment, education, and overall health and wellbeing.¹ We know that in Oregon, many immigrant families and their children experience discriminatory barriers to housing access that ultimately lead to housing instability, eviction, and homelessness.

According to Annie E. Casey Foundation, there were 176,000 children in 2022 who come from immigrant families, many of whom could face increased risk of homelessness without this bill.² SB 599 would protect these children and their families from discriminatory housing practices that may ultimately lead to homelessness by codifying best practices (already followed by many landlords) and strengthen Oregon's commitment to fair housing and equal opportunity for all residents, regardless of immigration or citizenship status.

¹<https://www.simplypsychology.org/maslow.html>

²<https://datacenter.aecf.org/data/tables/115-children-in-immigrant-families?loc=1&loc=2#detailed/2/39/false/1095,2048,1729,37,871,870,573,869,36,868/any/445,446>

PCA Oregon envisions a world where all kids and families are living happy and purposeful lives with hope for the future. This vision hinges on *all* Oregon families having access to safe and stable housing. Houselessness is not an inevitable outcome. *It is a policy choice.* We urge you to choose children during this legislative session by advancing SB 599.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to children and families.

Sincerely,

Arielle Hacker

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