

March 7, 2025

Senator Floyd Prozanski Chair, House Committee on Housing and Homelessness 900 Court St NE, S-413 Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for Senate Bill 599

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

The Oregon Housing Alliance urges your support for Senate Bill 599 which will protect Oregoninans from discrimination in their housing by ensuring everyone has access to fair housing regardless of immigration status.

Immigrants, particularly those in mixed-status households, often face housing insecurity and experience fear about their housing stability. This bill would provide greater stability for these groups, sending a strong message of inclusion and contributing to the overall well-being of the community.

By prohibiting landlords from inquiring about or rejecting applicants based on immigration status or citizenship status, it reduces biases and systemic discrimination in the housing market.

The Oregon Housing Alliance is a statewide coalition of over 100 member organizations, including tenant organizations; affordable housing developers and operators; social service providers and shelter operators; Community Action Agencies; Public Housing Authorities; housing industry businesses and professionals; city and county governments; and community-based nonprofits and advocacy groups.

Many of our members already practice the provisions set forward by this bill and see SB 599 as a codification of best practices for housing providers. It has been modeled off a City of Portland Ordinance that has been in effect for years.

By passing SB 599, Oregon increases housing stability across our state. It is to this end that the Oregon Housing Alliance urges your support.

Sincerely,

Rebekah Markillie Oregon Housing Alliance rmarkillie@neighborhoodpartnerships.org

A statewide coalition of housing providers, tenant organizations, homeless service agencies, local governments, and housing advocates. We believe every Oregonian deserves a home that is affordable, stable, accessible and safe. **oregonhousingalliance.org**