



**FHDC**

A Home is Just the Beginning

## **Re: Support for SB 599**

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

We are writing to express our strong support for SB 599, which seeks to ensure that all Oregonians have access to fair housing, regardless of immigration or citizenship status.

At FHDC, we believe that “a home is just the beginning.” Since 1991, we have been working in the Mid-Willamette Valley with the vision of empowering farmworker and workforce families through quality, affordable housing. This effort not only strengthens individual families but also enhances communities and ultimately benefits the entire state of Oregon. We view housing as a fundamental right that fosters stronger communities. Senate Bill 599 provides essential protections for families and helps prevent discriminatory practices that have no place in our great state.

While most housing providers already adhere to best practices and do not discriminate on the basis of citizenship or immigration status, the passage of the bill ensures that these principles are codified in our state statutes and conveys 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)

The bill will amend the Landlord-Tenant Act to provide that:

- 1) A Landlord may not inquire about or disclose a tenant or applicant’s immigration or citizenship status;
- 2) A Landlord must accept any of the following, or a combination thereof, to verify the name, date of birth, and photo of the Applicant:
  - a. Evidence of Social Security Number (SSN Card);
  - b. Valid Permanent Resident Alien Registration Receipt Card;
  - c. Immigrant Visa;
  - d. Individual Tax Payer Identification Number (ITIN);
  - e. Non-immigrant visa;
  - f. Any government-issued identification regardless of expiration date; or
  - g. Any non-governmental identification or combination of identifications that would permit a reasonable verification of identity.
- 3) A Landlord may not discriminate against a tenant or applicant based on immigration or citizenship status.

- 4) The bill would not apply to landlord compliance with federally subsidized housing benefit eligibility screening requirements.

*\*\*Note that technical amendments are pending to the bill to ensure that the language accomplishes the above intent.*

We urge your strong support of this SB 599. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony and for your service to Oregon communities.

Sincerely,

**Ramon Martinez - Communications and Advocacy Coordinator**

Farmworker Housing Development Coordinator