



April 22, 2025

**Re: Yes on SB 599**

Chair Kropf, Vice-Chairs Wallan and Chotzen, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Michelle Glass, and I submit this testimony on behalf of SO Health-E, a health equity coalition dedicated to advancing the well-being of families in Jackson and Josephine Counties. We write in strong support of SB 599, a vital measure to protect Oregonians from discrimination based on immigration or citizenship status.

**Access to safe and stable housing is a fundamental driver of health.** Yet many Oregon families, particularly immigrants and those from mixed-status households, face barriers and intimidation when seeking a place to live. SB 599 addresses this injustice by prohibiting landlords from inquiring about or using immigration status as a basis for rejecting housing applications. It also ensures that a wide range of identification documents are acceptable, reducing unnecessary burdens on those lacking conventional forms of ID.

**This legislation is especially crucial for rural and underserved communities, where housing scarcity already compounds challenges to health and well-being.** Families experiencing economic insecurity, many of whom are immigrants or people of color, should not be further marginalized in the search for shelter. By curbing discrimination, SB 599 strengthens not only individual dignity and safety but also public health outcomes across the state.

Furthermore, SB 599 includes protections against retaliation and threats of immigration disclosure—tactics that too often silence and endanger vulnerable tenants. These safeguards are essential for advancing housing justice and ensuring that all Oregon residents, regardless of background, can live without fear of exploitation or displacement.

**We urge the committee to pass SB 599 and take this critical step toward healthier and more stable communities across Oregon.**

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

SO Health-E, the Southern Oregon Regional Health Equity Coalition