



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

My name is Brooke Hill, and I am writing today representing Oregon AFSCME. We are the third largest labor union in the state, representing over 39,000 workers in public and private sectors. We believe in economic and housing justice for workers and their families.

AFSCME stands in strong support of SB 599A, providing all Oregonians access to fair housing, regardless of their immigration status. The bill was amended in the Senate to address technical requests from stakeholders, and comes to the House with bipartisan support. We urge this committee's support to ensure fair housing for all Oregonians.

State and federal fair housing laws already prohibit discrimination on the basis of national origin and on the basis of race. Because there is significant overlap between race, national origin, immigration and citizenship, it is considered best practice not to discriminate on the basis of immigration or citizenship, in recognition of the importance of compliance with fair housing laws. While many housing providers already adhere to best practices and do not discriminate on the basis of citizenship or immigration status, passage of the bill ensures that these principles are codified in our state statutes and sends a message of support and protection to our communities. Four other states have implemented similar protections with significant success.

Oregon AFSCME believes there is dignity and respect in all work. The right to safe and affordable housing should not depend on citizenship status (real or perceived), and this bill would codify this important sentiment in statute. Including specific protections for our immigrant community, at a time when immigrants are facing heightened scrutiny, sends a strong message that Oregon will fight to keep them safe and housed.

For all of these reasons, we urge your strong support of this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony today and for your service to all Oregon communities.

Sincerely,  
Brooke Hill  
AFSCME Political Team