



Oregon moms and caregivers fighting for gender, economic, and racial justice.

To: House Committee on Judiciary
From: Family Forward Oregon
Date: April 22, 2025
RE: In Support of SB 599A

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

My name is Marchel Marcos, and I am the Political Director for Family Forward. Family Forward strongly supports SB 599A, to clarify that all Oregonians have access to fair housing, regardless of their immigration or citizenship status. The bill was amended in the Senate to address technical requests from stakeholders, and comes to the House with bi-partisan support. We urge this committee's support and swift passage, to ensure fair housing for all Oregonians.

Family Forward is an organization committed to advocating for families across the state, and we know that SB 599 moves us closer to a fairer, more stable system for renters. For the families we advocate for, this bill represents critical protections in an increasingly unaffordable and unjust housing market. The backbone of a thriving family is safe and secure housing, regardless of immigration status.

Every day, we hear from families who are stretched thin to afford rent, cover child care costs, and keep up with basic expenses. Many of these caretakers work in essential roles like child care, education, service jobs and in the agriculture industry, providing vital roles to our communities. The reality is that families are being asked to do more with less, and the risk of losing housing due to immigration status only deepens this strain.

SB 599 takes an important step by protecting individuals and families from discriminatory and unfair housing denials based on immigration status, barriers that disproportionately impact immigrant families and communities of color.

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)

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Marchel Kaleikini". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Marchel" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Kaleikini".

Marchel Kaleikini
Political Director
Family Forward Oregon

