



SB 599A - Testimony for Fair Housing for All

April 22nd, 2025

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Hannah Alzgal, and I serve as the Statewide Housing Justice Policy Coordinator at Unite Oregon. I'm here on behalf of our 45,000 members statewide to respectfully urge your support for SB 599A and its Senate amendments.

At our 2024 Action Summit, members from across the Portland Metro and Rogue Valley areas named housing discrimination and affordability as the most urgent issues they face. We heard directly from community members, especially those in rural Oregon, who struggle to secure stable housing because of their immigration status. Some are forced to endure extended periods of homelessness or substandard housing, while others fear speaking up about unsafe conditions due to the threat of being reported to ICE.

This fear and instability undermine Oregon's values as a Sanctuary state. While Portland has taken steps to prohibit housing discrimination based on immigration status, these protections must extend statewide. Every Oregonian deserves the right to access safe, stable housing without fear of retaliation or exclusion.

By affirming immigration status as a protected class in housing access, SB 599A will not only help individuals stay housed, but it will strengthen entire communities. When people are housed securely, they are empowered to contribute, to thrive, and to advocate for themselves.

I urge you to support SB 599A to help ensure Oregon lives up to its promise of fairness, dignity, and opportunity for all.

Thank you for your time and commitment.

Sincerely,

Hannah Alzgal

Housing Justice Policy Coordinator
Unite Oregon