



Support Senate Bill 599A
House Committee on Judiciary
April 23rd, 2025

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

My name is Arielle Hacker and I am the Strategic Initiatives Coordinator at Prevent Child Abuse Oregon (PCA Oregon) - a statewide nonprofit dedicated to child and family wellbeing through community-based, comprehensive, primary prevention strategies. I am writing in strong support of 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.

I'm a social worker by profession and have dedicated many years to supporting folks in getting access to safe and stable housing. Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs indicates that people must satisfy and have access to basic physiological needs—like breathing, eating, drinking, sleeping, **and having stable housing**—before they can successfully attend to successively higher needs such as employment, education, and overall health and wellbeing.¹ We know that in Oregon, many immigrant families and their children experience discriminatory barriers to housing access that ultimately lead to housing instability, eviction, and homelessness.

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 protective and inclusive message to our communities.

¹<https://www.simplypsychology.org/maslow.html>

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)

According to Annie E. Casey Foundation, there were 176,000 children in 2022 who come from immigrant families, many of whom could face increased risk of homelessness without this bill.² SB 599A would protect these children and their families from discriminatory housing practices that may ultimately lead to homelessness by codifying best practices (already followed by many landlords) and strengthen Oregon's commitment to fair housing and equal opportunity for all residents, regardless of immigration or citizenship status.

PCA Oregon envisions a world where all kids and families are living happy and purposeful lives with hope for the future. This vision hinges on *all* Oregon families having access to safe and stable housing. Homelessness is not an inevitable outcome. *It is a policy choice.* We urge you to choose children during this legislative session by advancing SB 599A.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to children and families.

Sincerely,

Arielle Hacker

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²<https://datacenter.aecf.org/data/tables/115-children-in-immigrant-families?loc=1&loct=2#detailed/2/39/false/1095.2048.1729.37.871.870.573.869.36.868/any/445.446>