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*Margaret Salazar -
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*Sheila Stiley - NW
Coastal Housing*

House Committee on Judiciary – April 23, 2025

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 599A.

Housing Oregon is a statewide coalition of 137 nonprofit housing developers, community-based organizations, and service providers working to ensure that all Oregonians have access to stable, affordable homes. Collectively, our members operate tens of thousands of affordable rental homes across Oregon, with rents typically affordable to households earning just 37% of area median income.

We strongly support SB 599A because we believe no family should be denied housing based on their immigration or citizenship status. Housing is a basic human need and the foundation for stability, health, and economic opportunity.

Oregon law already prohibits housing discrimination based on race, national origin, and source of income. SB 599A builds on these protections by explicitly prohibiting landlords from using immigration or citizenship status to deny someone a home—while preserving compliance with federal housing rules. This is not a theoretical issue. The fear of discrimination or exposure has kept families from applying for housing, and this bill provides much-needed clarity and assurance.

The City of Portland has had similar protections in place for years under Portland City Code 30.01.086. SB 599A mirrors that local ordinance by prohibiting landlords from inquiring into immigration status, and by outlining a clear list of acceptable identity verification documents. Our members who operate in Portland report that these protections have worked well in practice.

SB 599A aligns with what many affordable housing providers already consider best practice, and what four other states—California, Washington, New York, and Illinois—have already adopted. It ensures statewide consistency and sends a clear signal that Oregon is committed to protecting the dignity and housing rights of all people, regardless of where they were born.

We thank the Oregon Law Center for their partnership in ensuring this bill is both fair and workable, and we appreciate the bipartisan support the bill has received in the Senate. We urge this committee to pass SB 599A without delay.

Thank you for your leadership and your service to Oregon communities.

Sincerely,

Kevin Cronin

Policy and Advocacy Director

Housing Oregon

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