



April 23, 2025

**TO: Chair Kropf, Vice-Chairs Chotzen and Wallan,
and members of the House Committee on Judiciary**

**FROM Keri Moran-Kuhn
Executive Director
OCADSV**

Regarding Support of SB 599A

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

My name is Keri Moran-Kuhn. I am the executive director of The Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (OCADSV). OCADSV is a coalition of 54 community-based, culturally specific, and tribal programs who provide community-based domestic and sexual violence services throughout the state. Many of our member programs provide temporary emergency shelter, transitional housing, and navigation of housing resources and applications to assist survivors in obtaining safe and secure housing for themselves and their families.

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.

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.

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)

Survivors of Domestic and Sexual Violence experience homelessness at exponential rates in our country. According to multiple studies examining the causes of homelessness, among mothers with children experiencing homelessness, more than 80% had previously experienced domestic violence. Further, according to a study of homeless and marginally housed people, 32% of women, 27% of men, and 38% of transgendered persons reported either physical or sexual victimization in the previous year (Kushel et al., 2003). Survivors who choose to leave violent households may lack resources to obtain safe permanent housing due to control tactics around access to work or money in their former relationships. Being unhoused is both a precursor and cause of violent experiences for survivors as they are vulnerable when unhoused and may experience violence in the streets or in precarious living situations.

This vulnerability is further compounded when the survivor is a recent immigrant or undocumented in the United States. Undocumented survivors face precarious situations when the person abusing them is connected to their immigration status, they also face barriers when accessing services and support including language barriers, lived experiences that make them fearful of governments or law enforcement, and fear of deportation for seeking safety. Even once an undocumented survivor overcomes these barriers and is connected to housing supports they also may face discrimination by landlords based on their documentation status or country of origin when they seek safe and secure housing. This bill will remove one of many barriers and ensure that immigrant and undocumented survivors in Oregon have more access to safe and stable housing by codifying non-discrimination into statute.

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

Sincerely,



Keri Moran Kuhn
Executive Director
OCADSV
keri@ocadsv.org