

Submitter: Elizabeth Walker
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB599

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

I am writing to you today in support of SB 599 fair housing for all. No Oregonian should be denied housing because of their immigration status.

This bill prohibits housing discrimination based on immigration status.

Housing discrimination has many impacts, including health issues, wealth inequality, and segregation. Oregon can be a leader in reducing these disparities by passing SB 599.

Housing is a massive issue in our state, people across race, economic status, etc. face difficulty in securing and maintaining housing that is affordable, safe, and maintained by the very landlords who make massive profit off their tenants. As with many crises, historically marginalized groups are disproportionately harmed in this crisis. Lawmakers who proclaim to be advocates for all Oregonians need to show up and fight for those most impacted.

SB 599 will reduce homelessness and economic hardship for Oregonians. Housing is a human right and everyone should have access to it. In addition, immigrants make up at least ten percent of our workforce and often work some of the most difficult jobs. No one should have to worry that they will be denied housing due to factors unrelated to their ability to be a good tenant or worry about asking for even modest repairs in fear of retaliation.

I strongly implore you to use your vote to protect these hardworking members of our state.

I urge you to pass SB 599 to ensure all Oregonians in every corner of our state get a fair shot at housing.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Walker
Milwaukie, OR