



March 6, 2025

Oregon State Senate
Committee on Judiciary

RE: SUPPORT FOR SB 559

Dear Cahir Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher, and members of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary:

I am writing IN SUPPORT of Senate Bill 559 (2025 Regular Session). This bill would prohibit landlords from inquiring about or disclosing immigration status or rejecting an applicant due to immigration status. With some minor adjustments, this bill would be an important element in protecting some of the most marginalized families that live in our communities, contribute to our economy, and work in our businesses and industries.

There are currently no housing protections for non-citizens at the state or federal level. This includes protections for lawful residents as well as citizens without documentation, and results housing instability for families that attend our schools, working our businesses, pay taxes, and contribute to our economy and communities in meaningful ways.

This bill is essential for providing housing stability to working families. Many of our hardest working families are left without any housing protections, which makes them vulnerable to bad actors able to use a family's immigration status and resulting lack of housing security to extort concessions they are not entitled to. Families with non-citizen status frequently report being afraid to enforce their housing rights due to the lack of protection for their families.

This Bill would not adversely affect constitutional property rights. State and federal fair housing protections for race, family status, disability, and other protected class identities have been held to be constitutional since their inception. Property owners that wish to exclude protected classes from their property have always been allowed to do so by taking their property off the rental market.

The state has a compelling interest in protecting the housing stability for families that contribute meaningfully to the social and economic fabric of Oregon. This Bill would be a major achievement in furtherance of that objective. I encourage the Committee to approve this bill with all the enthusiasm I can muster!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven Crawford".

Steven Crawford
Legal Director

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