



Advocating for Equity and Diversity  
throughout Oregon  
421 SW Oak Street  
Portland, OR 97204  
O: 503.302.9725  
E: [oaco.mail@oregon.gov](mailto:oaco.mail@oregon.gov)

House Committee on Housing

Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at 8am

Testimony in support SB 79

Chair Fahey, Vice-Chairs Campos and Morgan, Representatives Marsh, Meek, Neron, Weber and Zika,

My name is Joseph Gallegos and I am a member of the Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs (OCHA). OCHA's role is to work toward economic, social, political, and legal equity for Oregon's Latinx population. We do this through advocacy, public policy research, leadership development and partnerships. OCHA supports SB 79.

OCHA has been engaged in a needs assessment in partnership with Oregon Housing and Community Services. This is a partnership we value in our efforts to fulfil the OCHA's role as stated above. To that end, OCHA has engaged a research intern who has documented the need addressed in this bill.

My own history as the child of a Latinx agricultural worker family in the 1950's: Our family would return from summer work in the farms of the Willamette Valley each fall. That meant finding new low income housing each fall and thus, for me, ten different grade schools to attend. I thus suffered all the risk factors we know now to prevent. We now know that stable housing is crucial to family health and school success. With one fourth of the Oregon K12 student population being Latinx, we must do all we can to assure school success for the benefit for all Oregonians.

SB 79 will go long way in meeting these needs. We hope you too can support this bill.

Sincerely,



Joseph S. Gallegos, Ph.d.

