

**Re: Support for SB 599**

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in strong support of SB 599, to ensure that all Oregonians have access to fair housing, regardless of their immigration or citizenship status.

My name is Danny Rauda, and I am writing on behalf of the 3,000 diverse members of St. Anthony Catholic Church in Tigard, where I serve as the coordinator of the social justice ministry. This issue is important to our community because our faith calls us to uphold the dignity of every person, recognizing housing as essential to human flourishing. Moreover, through a communal process of prayer, listening, and action, we have formed the St. Anthony Housing Justice Team to champion tenant rights and advocate for safe, quality, and affordable housing. Last November, this grassroots group gathered over 230 participants, including 5 key representatives from our local government, for our inaugural Housing Justice Celebration. SB 599 aligns with our mission by ensuring all Oregonians, regardless of immigration or citizenship status, have access to stable housing. Denying this right undermines human dignity and the common good. By supporting SB 599, we seek a more just and compassionate Oregon where everyone has a Home to Flourish.

While we recognize that most 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)

The bill will amend the Landlord-Tenant Act to provide that:

- 1) A Landlord may not inquire about, or disclose with intent to harm, a tenant or applicant's immigration or citizenship status;**
  
- 2) A Landlord must accept any of the following, or a combination thereof, to verify the name, date of birth and photo of the Applicant:**
  - a. Evidence of Social Security Number (SSN Card);**
  - b. Valid Permanent Resident Alien Registration Receipt Card;**
  - c. Immigrant Visa;**
  - d. Individual Tax Payer Identification Number (ITIN);**

- e. Non-immigrant visa;
  - f. Any government-issued identification regardless of expiration date; or
  - g. Any non-governmental identification or combination of identifications that would permit a reasonable verification of identity.
- 3) A Landlord may not discriminate against a tenant or applicant based on immigration or citizenship status.
- 4) The bill would not apply to landlord compliance with federally subsidized housing benefit eligibility screening requirements.

In conclusion, SB 599 is critical to our mission because it aligns with Catholic social teaching's call to protect human dignity and promote the common good. Denying fair housing based on immigration or citizenship status undermines the values of justice and equality that we are called to uphold.

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

Sincerely,

Danny Rauda  
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