

Testimony in Support of Fair Housing for All (SB 599)
Amanda Pham Haines
March 5th, 2025

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

My name is Amanda Pham Haines, and I am a Portland, Oregon resident working in the nonprofit sector as the Statewide Housing Justice Manager at Unite Oregon and Director of the Anti-Displacement PDX Coalition. I am writing today in strong support of SB 599: Fair Housing for All Oregonians.

As part of my work, I lead monthly landlord-tenant trainings and operate a housing resource referral program, where I regularly hear firsthand accounts of the challenges facing both tenants and residential landlords. Because I am based in Portland, I often explain that our local ordinance protects against landlords denying housing based on immigration status. However, when I conduct trainings outside of Portland, I find myself having to clarify that these protections do not extend beyond city limits.

As you can imagine, this inconsistency does little to ease fears of landlord retaliation or housing denial based on a person's immigration status. Instead, it reinforces a culture of silence and fear, discouraging people from asserting their rights or seeking stable housing. That is not the Oregon I want to be a part of.

SB 599 presents a critical opportunity to establish clear, statewide protections that ensure all Oregonians—regardless of immigration status—can secure housing without discrimination or fear. By passing this legislation, we take an essential step toward building a more inclusive and equitable Oregon, where opportunity and connection are accessible to all.

I urge you to support SB 599 and help create a future where fair housing is a right for every Oregonian, not a privilege determined by geography.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Amanda Pham Haines

Statewide Housing Justice Manager, Unite Oregon
Director, Anti-Displacement PDX Coalition