

Submitter: Thomas Ybarra
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.

As the federal government targets the most vulnerable communities in our country, it is crucial for Oregon to uphold its values by protecting its people and honoring its commitment to immigrants in our communities. This bill prohibits housing discrimination based on immigration status, offering shelter and protection against the harmful and discriminatory practices of the federal government.

Moreover, people of color are disproportionately affected by the Trump administration's anti-immigrant policies, which have emboldened supporters to target people of color—often stigmatizing them before even considering their immigration status. This law will ensure equal access to housing for all, helping to eliminate stigma while providing safety and shelter.

Housing discrimination has far-reaching consequences, including negative impacts on health, wealth inequality, and segregation. By passing SB 599, Oregon has the opportunity to lead in addressing these disparities.

SB 599 will reduce homelessness, alleviate economic hardship for Oregonians, and provide shelter and protection to vulnerable communities in an extreme time of needed.

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

Sincerely,
Thomas Ybarra
Portland, OR