



Smart policies for today's families.

April 28, 2021
Senate Committee on Housing & Development
Testimony in Support of HB 2534A

Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Linthicum, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Courtney Helstein and I am the Political Director for Family Forward Oregon. We are an organization that advocates for policies that support mothers and caregivers and work to reverse systems and laws that can harm or devalue the work of caregiving. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2534A.

Just as over the years lawmakers have taken a closer look at Oregon statutes and moved to remove outdated and discriminatory language, all institutions should do the same. This is especially true when it comes to such basic needs like housing.

Family Forward's particular interest in HB 2534A is in protections related to familial status and preventing discrimination based on real or perceived caregiving responsibilities. HB 2534A not only protects occupants from discrimination based on familial status, it also specifically includes protection for "persons of close affinity or unrelated persons". This is a key provision to ensure protection for families no matter how they are formed.

Families shouldn't have to win the HOA lottery in order to live in their communities free from discrimination. During a time of extreme stress and difficulty for many families, we need every tool in our toolbox to support and protect our communities from discrimination. Thank you for your consideration and I urge your support of HB 2534A.

Sincerely,

Courtney Helstein
Political Director, Family Forward Oregon