



Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 599.

People make Oregon their home because they dream of what we all want - to live safely, care for our families, and contribute to our communities. Many immigrant and refugee Oregonians have faced unimaginable circumstances and are fleeing religious persecution or political violence. And yet, they have made Oregon their home and are contributing to Oregon's economy and workforce. They are our friends, teachers, healthcare workers and neighbors.

Many immigrants and refugees often face housing insecurity and instability. Some may have pending immigration court cases where they are applying for adjustment of status. But the court process is arduous, and many who are in our country will not have their first hearing until 2029 or 2030. While immigrants and refugees wait, they can often apply for work authorization and other forms of temporary assistance as their applications are reviewed by the federal government. There are some programs that can assist immigrant and refugee Oregonians with housing services, but many rely on the private market to ensure that their family has a safe place to sleep every night.

SB 599 would prevent landlords from asking about an individual or their family's immigration status. Such a requirement would provide greater stability for immigrant and refugee Oregonians, and will help ensure that their families have a roof over their heads.

Our state is enriched by the diversity of experiences, cultures, and traditions that all of us, including immigrants, bring to our neighborhoods and Oregon. SB 599 will continue to uphold these values. We urge your support of SB 599. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Isa Peña".

Isa Peña - Director of Strategy - Innovation Law Lab