

From the Offices of Representative Ricki Ruiz, Representative Lesly Muñoz, Representative Nathan Sosa

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Oregon House Democrats Pass Landmark Housing Equity Bill

SALEM, Ore. – Today, the House passed <u>SB599</u>, legislation that prohibits housing discrimination based on immigration status. The bill was chief sponsored by **Rep. Ricki Ruiz** and **Sen. Winsvey Campos**.

"This bill is about more than documents — it's about dignity," said **Rep. Ruiz (D-Gresham)**, chief sponsor and Co-Chair of the Legislative BIPOC Caucus. "No Oregonian should have to live in fear that where they were born could cost them their home. This bill makes it clear: housing is a human right, and discrimination has no place in Oregon."

SB 599 closes a longstanding gap in state law by explicitly banning housing discrimination on the basis of immigration status and prohibiting landlords from inquiring about or disclosing the immigration status of applicants, tenants, or household members. The bill also modernizes identity verification requirements by expanding the types of ID landlords may accept.

"For too long, our immigrant communities have lived under a cloud of uncertainty and fear. Today, we take a powerful step forward to ensure safe, stable housing is accessible to all Oregonians — regardless of their background," said **Rep. Lesly Muñoz (D- Woodburn)**.

Under the bill, landlords can verify applicants and run credit checks but cannot limit tenant identification to forms that are presumed to be tied to citizenship or permanent residency. The proposed law designates as acceptable social security cards, birth certificates, "green cards," travel and immigration visas, taxpayer ID number cards from the IRS, passports, driver licenses, other government IDs, and reasonably verifiable nongovernment IDs.

"At a time in our country when immigrant communities are under attack, every Oregonian has the right to feel safe in their home, regardless of their immigration status," said **Rep. Nathan Sosa (D – Greater Hillsboro)**

The legislation now heads to Governor Tina Kotek's desk. Once signed into law, Oregon will join Washington, California, New York, and Illinois in affirming that immigration status should never be a barrier to housing.