

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF 19-S 231
AN ACT RELATING TO PROPERTY – IMMIGRATION STATUS
April 23, 2019**

The ACLU is highly supportive of S 231, which would prohibit landlords from inquiring about the immigration status of their tenants. This legislation is critical to ensure both the safety of tenants and the ability for undocumented individuals to maintain healthy housing without fear.

As xenophobic measures and attacks continue to escalate across the country, it has become increasingly necessary to statutorily protect the rights of individuals who are undocumented, including the right to safe housing. Regardless of immigration status, all individuals should have the ability to provide shelter for themselves and their families without fear of discrimination or racial profiling. S 231 would protect the idea that one's accent or skin color should never preclude them from accessing housing. It would also guarantee that an unscrupulous landlord could not use immigration status to retaliate against tenants; for example, a landlord wouldn't have the ability to use an individual's immigration status as a threat to prevent the reporting of health code violations on the property.

Overall, it should not be permissible for a landlord to request irrelevant and private information such as immigration status, which has no effect on the qualities that make an individual a suitable and reliable tenant. As such, we urge passage of this piece of legislation.

Thank you for your consideration.