



House Committee on Human Services and Housing
Re: HB 2508

February 27, 2019

Chair Keny-Guyer, Vice Chair Noble, Vice Chair Sanchez, and Members of the Committee:
Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 2508, which would provide critical funding for refugee resettlement services. My name is Jenny Lee, and I am the Advocacy Director at the Coalition of Communities of Color.

The Coalition of Communities of Color is an alliance of culturally-specific community based organizations with representation from the following communities of color: African, African American, Asian, Latino, Middle Eastern, Native American, Pacific Islander, and Slavic. Our mission is to address the socioeconomic disparities, institutional racism and inequity of services experienced by our families, children and communities; and to organize our communities for collective action resulting in social change to obtain self-determination, wellness, justice and prosperity.

This legislation would provide 1,800 refugees with culturally-specific and responsive extended case management services over two years. Extended case management will help refugees adjust to their new communities. By investing in refugees early on in their first years of arrival, we will support the financial stability, health, educational success, and overall wellbeing of our newest neighbors.

Refugees contribute immensely to our state, and we must continue our legacy of welcoming those who are fleeing crises and persecution. When we provide refugees with the resources they need, we can create a better, more equitable Oregon.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify in strong support of HB 2508 to help ensure that refugees receive the support they need to thrive in our communities.

Sincerely,

Jenny Lee
Advocacy Director
Coalition of Communities of Color

