



HB 3176: **Testimony in Support**

Chair Reynolds, Vice-Chairs Nguyen and Scharf, Members of the Committee:

HB 3176 would direct The Department of Human Services, in consultation with the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Advancement, to establish the **Welcome and Reception Program** for the purpose of providing immigrants and refugees with specified services.

New arrivals are some of the most vulnerable, underserved and marginalized people in Oregon. Many arrive in our communities after harrowing journeys with no housing, no connections, and in need of the most basic support and services starting with housing, food, and jobs. Services offered by the federal or state systems are wholly inadequate. Various community based organizations and some faith communities have supported immigrants, refugees, and asylum-seekers using their limited resources. However, the need is much greater than the existing capacity to provide these essential services.

A state funded Welcome and Reception program would be an important step toward the goal of building infrastructure that will support new members of our community and facilitate their integration and full participation. While community based organizations are doing what they can to address this need, state funding and oversight are essential to assuring the basic needs of all new arrivals are met now and in the future.

Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network (COIN) is made up of Indivisible groups from across Oregon that collaborate to protect democracy and implement progressive values through voter outreach and education, campaigns and elections, holding our elected leaders accountable, and advocating for legislation that best reflects our values.

The members of our network have endorsed passage of this legislation. **We urge you to pass the bill, HB 3176, into law.**

Sincerely,

John Detweiler

COIN Legislative Team, Indivisible Sisters