

Submitter: D Torres

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure: HB4159

This bill is being declared as an emergency, creates a pilot program to provide immediate support services to newcomers arriving in Oregon with little to no resources. Recent closure of the Welcome Center [also referred to as the Hugo by Fortify Holdings], led to the rehousing of 300 migrant households. The Welcome Center was established as an initial humanitarian response. The pilot is aimed at long-term, sustainable, and cost effective way to continue serving families arriving in Oregon in need.

The Office of Immigrant and Refugee Advancement with the support of the Oregon Department of Human Services would coordinate and contract with community based organizations to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate support services including:

? Streamlined intake, initial reception and case management.

? Short-term wraparound support including shelter, food, clothing, health care and transportation.

? Long-term support related to housing, education, employment, leadership development and technology.

? HB 4159 also creates an advisory committee to serve as a forum for sharing information and provide feedback to the organizations contracted to provide services based on annual audits and surveys. By creating a robust infrastructure to welcome newcomers, we would be prepared for an influx rather than be reactive to flows of migration.

Sponsor Rep. Hoa Nguyen says, "It is my hope that through this pilot program, Oregon will be poised and ready to receive federal funding if the federal government chooses to intervene and support newcomers. This is how we build up Oregon's workforce and allow our newest Oregonians to integrate in our state."

Oregon can provide assistance without making it an industry for taxpayers to support. This is Oregon not just putting out the welcome mat for illegals but to bring them in to create more socialism programs providing long-term assistance. Along with new immigrants, it welcomes those working for cartels unless Measure 110 is repealed.