

Submitted by: Salah Ansary
On Behalf Of: Lutheran Community Services Northwest
Committee: Senate Committee on Health Care – Oregon
Bill: SB 476

February 27, 2025

Dear Chair Patterson, Vice Chair Hayden, and Members of the Committee:

Lutheran Community Services Northwest has been involved in refugee resettlement since 1975. We have resettled more than 45,000 refugees in the Pacific Northwest. We are intimately aware of the many challenges and obstacles refugees face during their journey of resettlement in America. They have a strong desire to succeed and to be contributing members of their local communities.

We appreciate and applaud the introduction of SB476 to help remove barriers refugees face toward recertification of their previous professional education from their country of origin. SB476 will help pave the way toward meaningful self-sufficiency and integration for many refugees. In turn, the broader community will also benefit from untapped refugee talent and skills in all sectors of the economy.

Lutheran Community Services is in full support of SB 476 and wish the committee success in passage of this bill.

Respectfully,

Salah Ansary

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