

Date: 03/13/2025

Organization: Salem For Refugees

Location: Salem, Oregon

Dear Co-Chair Campos, Co-Chair Valderrama, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing on behalf of Salem For Refugees to express our support for Senate Bill 5526, specifically its funding for Extended Case Management (ECM) services. As someone who works closely with refugees and vulnerable populations in Oregon, I have seen firsthand how ECM plays a critical role in ensuring long-term stability, self-sufficiency, and successful integration for those navigating complex challenges.

The challenges of resettlement and adjustment do not end within the standard case management period. Many refugees and vulnerable individuals continue to face barriers related to employment, housing, healthcare access, and language proficiency long after their initial support services expire. Without ECM, many struggle to navigate these systems independently, leading to increased risks of homelessness, unemployment, and reliance on emergency services.

ECM offers continued, individualized case management to assist individuals in securing and retaining employment, accessing healthcare, and maintaining stable housing. This guidance fosters long-term success and reduces reliance on state-funded emergency programs. Extended case management can contribute to better health outcomes and greater access to preventive care. Providing long-term case management ensures that individuals can navigate the healthcare system effectively and receive the care they need.

ECM helps clients become economically self-sufficient by offering job readiness training, employment coaching, and language support, ensuring they are equipped to contribute to Oregon's workforce. A stronger, well-supported workforce benefits both individuals and the state's economy.

Senate Bill 5526 represents a strategic investment in Oregon's communities. By funding Extended Case Management, we can empower vulnerable individuals to succeed, and improve health and employment outcomes. I urge the committee to support this bill and ensure that critical ECM services continue to be available for those who need them most.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Trivina Kassis  
Community Partnership Coordinator  
Salem For Refugees