

Submitter: Luke Bonham  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB149

We CAN build systems that welcome new community members and ensure that people have the support they need to thrive in the long term. And we need coordination across the state to better receive newcomers. Nonprofit organizations and grassroots groups cannot fill in for an integrated system to support newcomers. Nonprofits, churches, grassroots organizations, and advocates have been bearing the brunt of the responsibility to fill this service gap, engaging in fundraising, coordination, mutual aid, and other service and advocacy efforts, but these efforts are not sufficient to meet the need.

We as a family temporarily housed a single mother and her son (who turned 5 while they were living with us) because there was an urgent need and a network of mutual aid there to connect vulnerable people with temporary housing. After living with us, they were housed in a hotel for a period of time, funded by the County, and have now successfully been supported into stable rental housing, employment and school, a great success story for what this could look like across the state- all because they had the support available and people to navigate and connect to resources and housing when they needed it most. Now they will become invested members of our community and this child will be set up for success just because their basic needs are met. This bill uses a model that we know works to set families up for success. Please support this bill!