

Submitter: Melissa Frantz

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB149

I am writing to advocate for the passage of SB 194, the “Oregon’s New Neighbors Coordinated Access Act”, because I believe the health of our communities depend on supporting our vulnerable neighbors, especially those arriving to this country in search of safety and opportunity.

I have worked in public education and my children attend our neighborhood public schools. I have watched new arrivals to our country thrive within months of arrival thanks to the quick work of coordinated access organizations and refugee resettlement advocates. Families who have arrived to this country and have benefited from this coordinated access quickly become valuable, contributing members of our neighborhoods and school communities. When they struggle because of lack of access to housing or education, it creates a chain reaction of drain on our already struggling schools and social safety nets. Support of this bill signals support for thriving, healthy and educated communities that ensures the stability of a future Oregon.

In a time of great uncertainty for this community, your vote for the Oregon New Neighbors Coordinated Access Program will mean that a new generation of Oregonians feels safer and welcomed in our beautiful state.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration,
Melissa Frantz