

Submitter: Ethel Gullette
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB149
TO: Senate Committee On Judiciary
FROM: Ethel Gullette
SUBJECT: Yes on SB 149

Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher, and members of the committee,

My name is Ethel Gullette and I am a resident of Beaverton, OR, as well as a congregant member of First Unitarian Church of Portland. I am writing to advocate for the passage of SB 149, the "Oregon's New Neighbors Coordinated Access Act."

SB 149 expands the Extended Case Management program for refugees and other community members who are eligible, which will enable resettlement agencies and other CBO's to provide additional assistance to families who may need a little extra support when they arrive in Oregon, to shelter and house their families, enroll in healthcare services, employment, and education opportunities, and begin a new life contributing to their community. By supporting newly arrived immigrant Oregonian families, refugee Oregonians, and having additional case management and stabilization available for those who need it, SB 149 will both coordinate with and alleviate pressure on the mainstream housing and emergency shelter system in Oregon. SB 149 is the result of refugee resettlement agencies and immigrant-serving CBOs working together to ensure that we continue to welcome new neighbors well. This bill was created with the commitment to the thriving of all communities. I firmly believe that immigrants' contributions to our economy, our schools, our churches, and our communities are immeasurable

People move - and like any new neighbor, a little bit of support and welcome goes a long way for our refugee and immigrant neighbors. In a time of great uncertainty for this community, your vote for SB 149 will mean that a new generation of Oregonians feels safer and welcomed in our beautiful state.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration,
Ethel Gullette