

Submitter: David Medford  
On Behalf Of: St. Luke Lutheran Portland  
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB149

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and members of the committee , My name is David Medford and I am a member of St. Luke Lutheran Church in SW Portland . Over the past 30 years , St. Luke has actively welcomed/sponsored literally dozens of new immigrants from Vietnam , Cambodia, Syria, Iraq , African and Afghanistan. We know intimately how much work and how many volunteers are needed to make a successful transition for immigrant families possible . We have walked the talk . We are strong advocates for the passage of SB 194 , the "Oregon's New Neighbors Coordinated Access Act" because passage will make a successful transition much more likely .

This bill will do exactly what it says - create coordinated access to the stabilizing support services for new Oregonians. When a new immigrant community member arrives, they will be able to find the emergency support that they need , in a timely way, so they can shelter and house their families, enroll in school and healthcare services, and begin a new life contributing to their community. SB 149 expands the Extended Case Management program for refugees and others community members who are eligible , which will enable resettlement agencies and other CBOs to provide additional assistance to families who may need a little extra support when they time out of traditional resettlement services. Also by supporting newly arrived immigrant Oregonian families , refugee Oregonians, and having additional case management,ent 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 . I strongly urge passage of SB149. Thanks, David Medford