

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

My name is Connie Masuoka and I am the Board President of the Japanese American Museum of Oregon (JAMO), a nonprofit museum whose mission is to tell the history of the Japanese Americans of Oregon and in so doing strive to reflect and support the civil rights and social justice for all. I am writing to advocate for the passage of SB 149, the "Oregon's New Neighbors Coordinated Access Act, because our history informs us that similar actions after WWII with the creation of Vanport helped to support our families who were returning from unjust incarceration by the federal government, reestablish and become contributing members of society.

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 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 time out of traditional resettlement services.

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 mainstream housing and emergency shelter system in Oregon.

People move – and like any new neighbor, a little bit of support and welcome goes a long way for our refugee and immigrant neighbors. This bill is an opportunity for Oregon to choose to invest in welcoming its newest neighbors well. 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Connie Masuoka D.M.D.", written in a cursive style.

Connie Masuoka D.M.D.

JAMO Board President