

Submitter: Laura Iversen

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB149

I believe that support for newcomers (asylees, immigrants, refugees) benefits our communities long-term because these families and youths can make great improvements in quality of life with education and work. Their ability to stabilize is key in achieving economic stability and contributing to our communities and supporting tax base/social security/key jobs that are frequently accessible for new residents, but harder to fill without immigration.

This bill uses a model that we know works to set families up for success. In addition to budget note funding that was allocated by the legislature previously, this bill builds on a shelter-plus-rehousing pilot that the state and Multnomah County funded in 2024. Through a pilot program that began 9 months ago, more than 125 households have been successfully sheltered and are being rehoused, and are now well on their path to stability. This bill would systematize that model, improve it, and integrate it with community-embedded providers across the state, to make sure that more families can receive these and additional supports

Thank you for considering steps we can take as Americans and Oregonians to support newcomers.