

Submitter: Annica Maxfield

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB149

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

My name is Annica Maxfield, and I work as the Community Impact Director at Voz Workers' Rights Education Project, a non-profit, community-based organization dedicated to supporting day laborers, domestic workers, and immigrant communities across Oregon. I am writing to express my strong support for the passage of SB 149-3, a bill that directly aligns with Voz's mission to empower immigrant and refugee communities to not only survive but thrive. This legislation will provide vital support to newly arrived refugees and other community members, enabling them to stabilize and successfully integrate into Oregon's society.

SB 149-3 seeks to expand the Extended Case Management program for eligible refugees and other community members, allowing resettlement agencies and community organizations to offer much-needed assistance to families as they arrive in Oregon. This support encompasses essential services such as housing, healthcare enrollment, employment, and education opportunities—critical resources that help these families achieve stability and contribute meaningfully to their new community.

Immigrants make immeasurable contributions to our economy, schools, churches, and communities, enriching the vibrancy of Oregon. At Voz, we witness this firsthand through our work with day laborers and domestic workers, many of whom are immigrants themselves. These workers are vital to the functioning of our society, yet they often face significant barriers to stability and success. SB 149-3 will provide critical support to newly arrived families, ensuring they have the resources to establish secure and stable lives. This bill not only reflects our commitment to helping these families thrive, but also reinforces the broader commitment to ensuring that ALL communities can flourish. We have shown, time and again, that when we work together, we all rise. This bill embodies that spirit of unity, as it seeks to uplift all new Oregonians, without pitting their needs against one another or other communities.

People move, and just like any new neighbor, a little bit of support and a warm welcome can go a long way in helping refugee and immigrant neighbors feel truly at home. SB 149-3 offers Oregon a unique opportunity to invest in the well-being of its newest neighbors. In these uncertain times, your support for this bill will send a powerful message that a new generation of Oregonians is not only welcomed but embraced with safety and opportunity.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

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