

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

My name is Elissa Noble McCarthy. I am writing to advocate for the passage of SB 149-3 because I believe immigration creates economic growth and enriches our culture and values in Oregon. This bill provides services to Oregon's new neighbors experiencing high vulnerability and systemic barriers and gives them tools they need to thrive and to contribute to the success of Oregon. These are Oregon's newest students, faith leaders, and workers, and a small, early investment in their stability is a proven way to set them up to contribute to Oregon's economic and social fabric.

SB 149-3 expands the Extended Case Management program for refugees and other community members who are eligible, which will enable resettlement agencies and other community organizations to provide additional assistance to families when they arrive in Oregon. This support includes shelter and housing, enrolling in healthcare services, employment, and education opportunities, all of which are crucial to these families being able to stabilize and contribute to their community.

- SB 149 is the result of refugee resettlement agencies, immigrant-serving CBOs working together to ensure that we continue to welcome new neighbors well. It reflects the **shared need** for coordinating systems of support for new Oregonians
- SB 149 provides additional capacity so that when a new community member arrives with their children, they will not wait outside for the estimated 6+ months it currently takes to be supported through mainstream shelter and housing services.
- **We have shown that we can work together to ensure that ALL communities thrive.** This bill was created with the commitment to the thriving of all communities.
- Immigrants contributions to our economy, our schools, our churches, our communities are immeasurable

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 SB 149-3 will mean that a new generation of Oregonians feels safer and welcomed in our beautiful state.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration,  
Elissa Noble McCarthy  
Aloha United Methodist Church, Office Administrator  
IMlrJ, Administrator