

Submitter: Sarah Manon

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB149

My name is Sarah Manon, and I am an ESL teacher in Salem-Keizer Public Schools. For the past 32 years, I have worked with newcomer students and families as they first arrive in our community, which is why I am writing to advocate for the passing of SB149, the "Oregon's New Neighbors Coordinated Access Act." In coordinating services in the school for new refugees and immigrant students, I see the need for stable support for families as they are facing the challenges of resettlement. With extended case management when new families arrive, they would be connected to services, supported in access education and provided safe housing. Most newcomer families have experienced trauma and are further stressed by the resettlement process. As a community, the best way we can combat the isolation and alienation they have experienced is to make connections and create stability in their lives. Our community is stronger when we are united. In supporting new immigrant and refugee families with SB 149, we show our commitment to our collective wellbeing.