

Submitter: Jane Bartosz

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 Jane Bartosz and I am a volunteer with Salem for Refugees. I am writing to advocate for the passage of SB 149, the "Oregon's New Neighbors Coordinated Access Act", because our new neighbors deserve to be treated kindly and humanely. They should feel welcomed here in Oregon. Many have gone through very tough times and lost much, causing much anxiety and some trepidation, including toward service providers. 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, with SB149 they will be able to find and access an infrastructure that includes a coordinated system of reception, including the emergency support that they need in a timely way, so they can shelter and house their families(alleviating pressure on the mainstream housing and emergency shelter system in Oregon), enroll in school and healthcare services, and begin a new life contributing to their community. I have seen with Salem for Refugees the impact support and services can provide a family and how quickly these new neighbors truly can become part of the community. Immigrants contribute to our economy, our schools, our churches, our communities in immeasurable ways.

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. The Oregon's New Neighbors Coordinated Access Act is the result of refugee resettlement agencies, immigrant-serving CBOs, and government agency collaboration working together to ensure that we continue to welcome new neighbors well. It reflects the shared need for coordinated access to existing systems of support for new Oregonians

SB 149 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.

Jane Bartosz