

Submitter: Gene Mumau

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 Gene Mumau. I am a part-time staff pastor at Salem First Free Methodist Church. I reside in Salem and have been an Oregonian all my life. I am writing to advocate for the passage of SB 149, the "Oregon's New Neighbors Coordinated Access Act", because it helps ensure an immigrant community member will become a successful member of the Oregon community. This bill will do exactly what it says - create coordinated access to the stabilizing support services for new Oregonians. When a new person and/or family arrives, they will be able to find the emergency support that they need in a timely way, so they can shelter and house their families, enroll in school and healthcare services, and begin a new life contributing to their community.

We have had several refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo attending our church since their arrival in Salem. I have noted how this extra has aided their settlement into our community.

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.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this matter

[signed] Gene Mumau