

Submitter:

Rev. Dr. Lucy Hitchcock

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB149

Given the tenor of the times, nationally, in regards to immigration, SB 149 is a useful and necessary step in Oregon to a thoughtful approach to providing services and opportunities for new arrivals to our state, and assessing our offerings on a regular basis. Oregon, and Salem where I live, already has some excellent community services to aid immigrants to establish themselves in housing, schools, work opportunities, healthcare, English language skills, etc., as well as simply to help them feel welcome and wanted. We are, historically, a nation of native people, settlers, refugees and immigrants. Also historically, our nation's and state's record is a mixed bag.

We now know it takes forethought, collaboration, good intentions and sometimes legislation to create a helpful process for entry, assimilation, and retention of newcomers. Please pass SB 149 to facilitate Oregon to retain its sanctuary status, its hospitable nature, its governmental oversight ability in its proactive assimilation of newcomers of many backgrounds, so needed - now more than ever. May Oregon show leadership in this regard.