

Submitter: Erica Rubin

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB149

Please support SB 149.

SB 149 will provide the resources needed for refugees and asylum seekers who have arrived in Oregon seeking safety and protection to find housing, health care, employment, and education opportunities.

SB 149 will ease the burden on the already-strained homeless and housing systems. This bill provides both navigation support AND funding for immediate needs like housing, which will alleviate the strain on our mainstream systems, particularly as those systems face budget cuts. Most new Oregonians and refugees only require temporary shelter and short-term rental assistance, along with culturally appropriate case management, to stabilize.. And this bill makes extended case management accessible to more people who need a little extra support.

This bill was created with the commitment to the thriving of all communities. We are unwilling to pit the needs of New Oregonians against other communities, or some new Oregonians against each other

We CAN build systems that welcome new community members and ensure that people have the support they need to thrive in the long term. Nonprofit organizations and grassroots groups cannot fill in for an integrated system to support newcomers. Nonprofits, churches, grassroots organizations, and advocates have been bearing the brunt of the responsibility to fill this service gap, engaging in fundraising, coordination,

I, myself, hosted a couple and child from Venezuela for 3 months while they found a way to live independently. They were highly motivated to become contributing members of our community but needed help to get there.

I urge you to support this bill.