

Submitter: VIVIANNA MCCOY
On Behalf Of: Salem for Refugees
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB149

Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher, and members of the committee,

My name is Vivianna McCoy, and I am a community member of Salem for Refugees.

I am writing to advocate for the passage of SB 149, the "Oregon's New Neighbors Coordinated Access Act", because immigrant contributions to our economy, our schools, our churches, our communities are immeasurable.

This bill will do exactly what it says - create coordinated access to stabilizing support services for new Oregonians. When a new immigrant community member 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.

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.

People move - and like any new neighbor, a little bit of support and welcome goes a long way for our refugee and immigrant neighbors. This bill 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 feel safer and welcome in our beautiful state.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration,
Vivianna McCoy