

Submitter: Monika McQuarrie
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 Monika McQuarrie 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 helping those who are fleeing from political and religious unrest to our
country need support to start their new lives.

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,
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.

? By supporting newly arrived immigrant Oregonian families, refugee Oregonians,
and having additional case management and stabilization available for those who
need it, SB 149 will both coordinate with and alleviate pressure on the
mainstream housing and emergency shelter system in Oregon.

? 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 provides additional capacity so that when a new community member
arrives with their children, they cannot wait outside for the estimated 6+ months it
currently takes to be supported through mainstream shelter and housing
services.

? SB 149 will create infrastructure for a coordinated system of reception. It will
provide the resources needed for Oregonians who have arrived seeking safety
and protection to find housing, health care, employment, and education
opportunities. This ensures our new neighbors can achieve their own goals of
successfully contributing to our state

? We have shown that we can work together to ensure that ALL communities thrive. This bill was created with the commitment to the thriving of all communities. We are unwilling to pit the needs of one new Oregonian community against each other or other communities.

? Immigrants contributions to our economy, our schools, our churches, our communities are immeasurable

? In 1-3 sentences, weave another story of why you believe the Oregon's New Neighbors Coordinated Access Program is important and adds value to/supports the values of our state

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 feels safer and welcomed in our beautiful state.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration,
Monika McQuarrie