

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

My name is Lynn Albright, and I am a resident of Salem, Oregon and a volunteer for *Salem for Refugees*. I am in support for the passage of SB 149, the “Oregon’s New Neighbors Coordinated Access Act”, because immigrant contributions to our economy, our schools, our churches and 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.

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.

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 will feel safer and welcome in our beautiful state.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration,

*Lynn Albright*