

Submitter:

Sarah Rohrs

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 Sarah Rohrs. I live in Salem and am a member of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Salem. Vice Chair Thatcher, I am one of your constituents.

I am writing due to serious concerns I have regarding funding for refugee resettlement and to advocate for the passage of SB 149,, the "Oregon's New Neighbors Coordinated Access Act." I support this bill because many of our newest residents are coming here without needed services.

The federal government is no longer accepting refugees and has cruelly cut off funding for all refugee resettlement programs. This bill will allow the state of Oregon to fund services for families fleeing violence in their home countries and give them a chance to reestablish themselves and their families here in our beautiful state.

This bill will provide coordinated access for services for new Oregonians and continue established programs. New immigrant community members will find help they need in a timely manner, including shelter, food, healthcare and other services.

Helping new Oregonians benefits all of us. Immigrants contribute to our economy, our schools, our churches, our communities. SB 149 is an opportunity for Oregon to choose to invest in welcoming its newest neighbors well. Your vote for the Oregon New Neighbors Coordinated Access Program means a new generation of Oregonians will feel safe and welcome here.

Thank you for your consideration,
Sarah Rohrs