

Submitter: Rebecca Schenck
On Behalf Of: Refugee and Immigrant Services Program
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB149

I have been a member of the Refugee Resettlement Coalition of Lane County for the past six years, volunteering to provide services to refugees settling in Eugene, beginning with Syrian refugees, then Afghan refugees, and most recently refugees from Ukraine, Central America and several African countries. I have found these refugees (who are all here legally, having gone through extensive vetting through government agencies) to be resilient, mostly eager to learn English and often further their education, and willing to work at jobs far below their status in their home countries. I believe immigrants add richness to our culture, add vibrant diversity, and aid the local economy. I fully support SB 149 and am eager to see its passage.