

Submitter: Lauren Herbert

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB149

I am writing in support of SB 149, which would improve access to essential support services for newly arrived immigrants and refugees.

I am a pediatrician who recently retired from practice. I speak Spanish fluently, so I cared for many Latinx children, including some who recently immigrated to Oregon. For the children and their families to adjust to the new community, home, school, healthcare system, transportation, and language was overwhelming for most. For those who had suffered trauma in their county-of-origin, the adjustment was especially difficult. I saw those who received case management adjust much more quickly.

Supporting this transition is important for the children and their families so that they can thrive and be integrated successfully. The children, their families and our community will all be stronger by providing these services.