

Submitter: Tiffany Howe

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB149

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

My name is Tiffany Howe and I am a member of the Unitarian Universalist Church in Salem, Oregon. I am writing to advocate for the passage of SB 149, the "Oregon's New Neighbors Coordinated Access Act", because I value being part of a state and community that places value and importance on helping others. I think it is vitally important to help individuals and families fleeing the horrible circumstances of war and violence and welcoming them into our community. I strongly believe that communities thrive when we all work together to elevate everyone. No one should have to live in fear.

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 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.

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,  
Tiffany Howe