

Submitter: Katrina Schmidt

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB149

I'm writing in strong support of Senate Bill 149, which would expand access to critical support services for newly arrived immigrant and refugee families in Oregon.

Currently, many individuals—such as asylum seekers and parolees—are excluded from state-funded case support simply because they don't meet the narrow federal definition of "refugee." SB 149 would change that by ensuring more people can access help with housing, school enrollment, healthcare, and other essential needs during an incredibly vulnerable time in their lives.

This bill also allows more community-based organizations to provide these services, helping families settle and build stable, productive lives. SB 149 strengthens the support network that makes Oregon a more welcoming and compassionate state for all.

I urge you to support SB 149 and help ensure no one falls through the cracks.

Thank you for your time and leadership.