

)

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

My name is Melissa Nickerson and I am a retired chaplain and quaker at Multnomah Monthly Meeting in Portland. I was in Salem all day Monday with the Sacred Organizing Coalition lobbying for several bills, and sat in on the hearing of this one. Statistics indicate that extended care and support to immigrants and refugees significantly improves their chances of being successful. I was moved by the testimonies given at the hearing by those who know what it means to struggle to make a new home of belonging in a place that is foreign. The testimonies were articulate and spoken with integrity, and so I trust the truth of their word. So I am writing to advocate for the passage of SB 149, the “Oregon’s New Neighbors Coordinated Access Act.

Thank you for your consideration and your dedication.

Sincerely,

Melissa Nickerson