

Submitter: Laura M. Ohanian

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB149

With the takeover of the federal government by a greedy autocrat and his billionaire buddies, there are so many people in need of help. In light of this situation, I strongly support Senate Bill 149, which would expand the definition of who is eligible to receive state-funded case support that is typically reserved only for refugees -- currently, that support is limited to those who meet the federal definition of refugee, which excludes parolees and asylum seekers. It would also enable more organizations to receive funds to case manage, re-house, and otherwise support newcomer families in our state. Finally, it would allocate funds toward these purposes, which would mean a path to stability for hundreds of newcomer families. I empathize, as my grandparents were newcomers to this country from Armenia 115 years ago.

SB 149 is a bill designed to improve access to essential support services for newly arrived immigrants and refugees in Oregon. The goal is to make sure that when someone new arrives in the state, they can quickly connect to the help they need, which includes emergency housing, school enrollment, and healthcare, so they can begin building stable, productive lives in their new communities. In short, SB 149 helps ensure that no one falls through the cracks during one of the most vulnerable times in their life and it strengthens the systems that make Oregon a welcoming place for all.

Thank you for your consideration.

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