

Submitter: Daniel Reid

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB149

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

My name is Daniel Reid and I am a congregation member of Havurah Shalom in Portland. I am writing to advocate for the passage of SB 149-3 because I believe in our communities' obligation to "welcome the stranger" when new Oregonians come to us in a time of need.

SB 149-3 expands the Extended Case Management program for refugees and other community members who are eligible, which will enable resettlement agencies and other community organizations to provide additional assistance to families when they arrive in Oregon. This support includes shelter and housing, enrolling in healthcare services, employment, and education opportunities, all of which are crucial to these families being able to stabilize and contribute to their community.

? By supporting newly arrived immigrant Oregonian families, refugee Oregonians, and having additional case management and stabilization available for those who need it, SB 149 will both coordinate with and alleviate pressure on the mainstream housing and emergency shelter system in Oregon.

? SB 149 is the result of refugee resettlement agencies and immigrant-serving CBOs working together to ensure that we continue to welcome new neighbors well. It reflects the shared need for coordinating systems of support for new Oregonians.

? SB 149 provides additional capacity so that when a new community member arrives with their children, they will not wait outside for the estimated 6+ months it currently takes to be supported through mainstream shelter and housing services.

? We have shown that we can work together to ensure that ALL communities thrive. This bill was created with the commitment to the thriving of all communities. We are unwilling to pit the needs of one new Oregonian community against each other or other communities.

? Immigrants' contributions to our economy, our schools, our churches, and our communities are immeasurable.

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 SB 149-3 will mean that a new generation of Oregonians feels safer and welcomed in our beautiful state.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration,

Daniel Reid