

Submitter:	Rebecca Miller
Committee:	Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic:	SB149

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

My name is Rebecca Miller and I live in Portland, Oregon. I am writing to advocate for the passage of SB 194, the “Oregon’s New Neighbors Coordinated Access Act”.

Senate Bill 149 offers a clear and practical solution: it creates coordinated access to vital support services for new Oregonians—immigrants and refugees seeking safety, stability, and a chance to contribute. When newcomers arrive, this bill ensures they can quickly access emergency shelter, housing, healthcare, and education—helping them stabilize their families and begin building a new life.

By expanding Oregon’s Extended Case Management program, SB 149 allows refugee resettlement agencies and immigrant-serving community organizations to continue assisting families even after they’ve exited traditional resettlement services. This added support ensures no one falls through the cracks during a vulnerable transition period.

Supporting newly arrived families is not only the right thing to do—it’s also smart policy. SB 149 reduces pressure on Oregon’s mainstream housing and emergency shelter systems by providing an alternative path to stabilization for those who need it most. It builds much-needed infrastructure for a coordinated reception system, so families with children aren’t left waiting for months for basic services.

The Oregon New Neighbors Coordinated Access Act represents a partnership between government agencies, refugee resettlement providers, and immigrant-serving organizations, all working toward a common goal: ensuring that Oregon remains a place where all communities can thrive. This bill invests in the future by welcoming new neighbors with dignity and efficiency.

Immigrants and refugees enrich Oregon’s economy, workforce, schools, and neighborhoods. Their contributions are vital and far-reaching. SB 149 lays the groundwork for new Oregonians to succeed—because when they thrive, Oregon thrives.

This is not about choosing one group over another. It’s about making sure our systems are responsive, compassionate, and sustainable—for everyone. People move. And when new

neighbors arrive, a little support goes a long way. This bill is Oregon's opportunity to lead with welcome, invest in our collective future, and show that we care about the well-being of all who call this state home.

Thank you for your time and for considering this important investment in Oregon's communities and economic strength.

Rebecca Miller