

Submitter:

Judith Volem

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB149

As the daughter of immigrants, I grew up with stories of escape from violence and resettlement in America. My parents were assisted by HIAS, an international resettlement agency, as well as by local organizations. They could be identified as immigrants, refugees or asylum seekers. They benefited from public services, their community and family members. Our country has benefited from people like my family, who became productive citizens and passed on the legacy to welcome those in need.

The need to expand services in Oregon is evident. Refugees are no longer arriving, but we can all benefit if parolees and asylum seekers are given the support they need to become productive citizens in Eugene.

My experience as a volunteer with Refugee Immigrant Services Program has continually shown that we, who live here, are also the beneficiaries. Our country has always depended on the ingenuity, diligence, and compassion of new arrivals. Please include SB 149 as part of our historic legacy.