

Submitter:	Christin Smith
On Behalf Of:	community member
Committee:	Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic:	SB149

I am writing to urge you to pass SB 149; Dash 3 Amendment, the 'Oregon New Neighbors Coordinated Access Act' because now, perhaps more than ever, refugees in Oregon need our help. This bill coordinates access to stabilizing support services, such as shelter, as well as school enrollment and healthcare services for our new neighbors. We all want refugees in Oregon to become part of their communities and lead stable and productive lives. You can help by passing this bill. SB 149-3 expands the Extended Case Management program for refugees and other community members who are eligible, to enable resettlement agencies and other CBOs to provide additional assistance to families who may need extra support when they 'time out' of traditional resettlement services. This bill also helps: 1) alleviate pressure on mainstream housing and emergency shelters in Oregon, 2) highlights the need for coordinated access to existing support systems for new Oregonians, 3) provides additional capacity for shelter and housing services, 4) provides a coordinated system to help our newly arrived neighbors find housing, health care, employment, and education. This bill helps stabilize our new neighbors, to allow these immigrants to contribute to our economy, schools, churches, and communities. The advantages to all Oregonians of thriving community members is clear. Please pass this bill