

Submitter:	Barbara Miles
On Behalf Of:	Salem for Refugees
Committee:	Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic:	SB149

Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher, and members of the committee,
I am writing to advocate for the passage of SB 149, the "Oregon's New Neighbors Coordinated Access Act", because I have seen close up how vital it is for our newest neighbors to have coordinated access to stabilizing support services.

The family I work with arrived here nearly three years ago to escape danger in Afghanistan. I have been privileged to walk with them and their children as they moved into a modest apartment and enrolled their three kids in local schools. The dad did volunteer work until he could secure paid jobs. The mom works hard to learn English and help her children. Any initial investment in their survival is already being repaid.

This bill will help us meet our commitments to other refugees who have waited in camps to begin new lives.

Thank you for your time and compassion,
Barbara Curtin Miles