

Submitter: Teresa Hawkes
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB149
Testimony on SB 149

To: Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher, and members of the committee,
My name is Teresa D. Hawkes, Ph.D. and I am a community member of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Eugene, OR. I am writing to advocate for the passage of SB 194, the "Oregon's New Neighbors Coordinated Access Act", because the stability of immigrants into Oregon is key for their ability to maintain a safe standard of living, achieve integration into the Oregon community, and find jobs to support immigrants and their families as their resettlement commences. Aid to help families access proper schools and healthcare services are also key services offered by this bill. To achieve these goals, SB 149 expands the Extended Case Management program for refugees and other community members who are eligible, which will enable resettlement agencies and other CBO's to provide additional assistance to families who may need a little extra support if they time out of traditional resettlement services. This bill was created to commit to the thriving of our nested communities. We are unwilling to pit the needs of one new Oregonian community against each other or other Oregon communities. We want to help immigrants contribute to our economy, our schools, our churches, our communities. These contributions are of immeasurable worth to the People of Oregon and are enabled by this Bill.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration,
Teresa D. Hawkes, Ph.D. Human Physiologist from The University of Oregon, USA.