



April 9th, 2025

To: Senate Judiciary Committee

Re: Support for SB 149, Oregon's New Neighbors Coordinated Access Act"

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

My name is Alex Riedlinger and I am the Advocacy Manager for the Coalition of Communities of Color (CCC). **I am writing in support of SB 149, the "Oregon's New Neighbors Coordinated Access Act".**

CCC is a member-based non-profit that advocates for communities of color to receive equitable resources including immigrants, refugees, migrants, asylum seekers, and asylees.

SB 149 expands the Extended Case Management program for refugees and other eligible community members, enabling resettlement agencies and CBOs to aid newly arrived families in securing shelter and housing, enrolling in healthcare services, employment, and education, and beginning a new life contributing to their community.

Adding capacity to this program will ensure that when community members arrive with their children, **they will not wait outside for the estimated 6+ months to receive support from mainstream shelters and housing services.**

This bill will support newly arrived immigrant communities by amending the existing Extended Case Management program to **expand the definition of organizations that can provide services** to Oregon's new neighbors and **broaden the definition of refugee** to include those pursuing immigration assistance and having been residing in this state for 24 months or less.

Organizations that support refugee Oregonians **need to be able to expand the supportive case management and services they provide** in the face of dramatic federal funding cuts to refugee resettlement programs.

This bill is an opportunity for Oregon to invest in welcoming its newest neighbors. In a time of great uncertainty, your vote for SB 149 will mean that a new generation of Oregonians feels safe and supported in our state.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration,

Sincerely,

Alex Riedlinger, Advocacy Manager
Coalition of Communities of Color