

Submitter:	Salah Ansary
On Behalf Of:	LCSNW
Committee:	Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic:	SB149

Chari Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher, and members of the Committee:

Lutheran Community Services Northwest welcomes and supports the introduction of SB149-3 sponsored by Senator Jama.

Since 1975, Lutheran Community Services Northwest has assisted in the resettlement of more than 50,000 refugees and immigrants. This humanitarian endeavor has been accomplished in partnership with federal, state, local governments, faith-based communities, many dedicated individuals and donors with commitment to welcome our new neighbors who were fleeing persecution from war-torn countries. Successful integration and a path towards self-sufficiency requires receiving communities for a well-coordinated service delivery infrastructure. The Oregon extended case management services in the past years have proven an effective structure that has enabled the resettlement agencies to assist newcomers with access to healthcare, employment, housing and a host of other essential services. We are grateful to Oregon Legislature for its leadership and consideration to continue their support of resettlement agencies and community-based organizations to better support newcomers' integration and long-term success.

SB 149-3 is an investment that provides long term dividends. In Oregon, both refugees and immigrants contribute significantly to state's economy through taxes, with immigrant-led households paying billions in federal and state taxes. Lutheran Community Services urges you to support the passage of SB 149-3. Thank you.