

Dear House Committee on Housing and Human Services,

I am writing to express my strong support for HB 2508 requiring DHS to award grants to refugee resettlement agencies to provide services to refugees arriving in Oregon.

I am a volunteer with the St Ignatius Tibbitts House Ministry. We welcome and support refugees who are relocated to the Portland metro area through Catholic Charities Refugee Relocation Program. I've witness firsthand the intense dedication of case managers who struggle to provide safe housing and adequate access to services to our new neighbors being placed through their program. They say federal funding is not enough to transition families into Oregon's high priced health care and housing markets. HB 2508 will provide funding to meet the basic needs of these new Oregonians, and will give case managers and volunteers a much appreciated boost in moral. Knowing that our state government cares as much for transitioning families as we do, makes our partnership stronger.

Please vote yes on HB 2508 allowing DHS to award grants to refugee resettlement agencies.

If more testimony is needed, please call me at 503 231-8220.

Sincerely,

Claire Burt

Tibbetts House Volunteer