

My name is Linda Dolar and I work for Salem Leadership Foundation. We are a supporter and partner with Salem for Refugees, and I have been volunteering with SFR for over 2 years. I urge you to support this bill to give state funding to the resettlement agencies who deal with the Refugees (our new neighbors) who are coming to Oregon to start a new life. With the federal government cutting off funding, the needs are still there, and volunteers cannot be expected to shoulder the monumental task of helping to assimilate these folks into daily life.

In order for our new neighbors to become productive, healthy contributing members of society, they need support, friendship and money to get them started here. 3 - 6 months of financial support is not enough to learn a new language, figure out transportation, get a job that will support a large family, get the kids enrolled into school, deal with all the legal and medical requirements for a newly settled refugee, the list is endless. In my opinion, they should get some amount of support for at least 12 months.

Salem for Refugees is an amazing group of local volunteers who are committed to helping our new neighbors succeed. The refugee crisis around the world is the worst it's ever been, and if Oregon can welcome them and provide a new start, that is something of which we can all be proud.

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*Linda Dolar*

*Salem Leadership Foundation*

*Business/Office Manager*

[linda@salemlef.org](mailto:linda@salemlef.org)

503-315-8924