

Dear Honorable Legislators,

I am writing in support of SB778 because I know how much our immigrant and refugee families could use support.

I could tell you the story of the 17-year old Somali boy who needed help with his immigration paperwork that required so much documentation and information that I imagined he would live in limbo trying to get a work permit while balancing how to support his family. I can tell you about the student who shared the trauma of living in a refugee camp or the mom who worked multiple jobs trying to support her family. I know the hundreds of students labeled ELL and SPED trying to navigate our school systems. They are all desperately trying to assimilate. Some of them are able to push through but so many slip through the cracks.

An investment in an office that looks to develop strategies to engage these communities can drastically change the narrative of these communities and lead to financial security, mental health support and more as we economically empower them to thrive in Oregon. I urge you to consider how we can support our people through an office who could provide better resources to invest in our people and help level the playing field for all of our communities.

In solidarity,
Nadia Hasan