

Dear Chair, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee on Education:

My name is Salah Ansary, Senior Director of Advocacy and Government Affairs at Lutheran Community Services Northwest (LCSNW) with programs in the State of Oregon, Washington, and Idaho. LCSNW has had a long history of working with refugees and immigrants. Since 1975, we have resettled more than 45,000 refugees in the Northwest.

We are so thrilled and welcome the introduction of SB 1532 to include refugee and immigrant school-aged children as part of a broader vision that was established the Student Success Plan through the passage of HB 3427 during the 2019 session. The legislature expanded the statewide equity initiatives to include the LGBTQ2SIA+ Student Success Plan in 2020, and Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Student Success Plan in 2023. SB 1532 would direct the Oregon Department of Education to develop an advisory committee that will assist the agency by informing the development and implementation of a plan for immigrant and refugee student success. This plan much also be implemented in alignment with existing statewide student success plan initiatives. SB 1532 would appropriate \$2 million out of the statewide student education imitative for the remainder of the 2023-25 biennium to cover necessary costs.

We urge your consideration for the passage of SB 1532 to address the equity issue, as well as helping refugee and immigrant school-aged children succeed in their journey of integration and academic achievement.

Thank you.