

Submitter: Jane Rice
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB149

Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher, and members of the committee,

My name is Jane Rice and I am a member of Havurah Shalom in Portland. I am writing to advocate for the passage of SB 149-3 because SB 149-3 expands the Extended Case Management program for refugees and other community members who are eligible, which will enable resettlement agencies and other community organizations to provide additional assistance to families when they arrive in Oregon. This support includes shelter and housing, enrolling in healthcare services, employment, and education opportunities, all of which are crucial to these families being able to stabilize and contribute to our community.

Havurah Shalom, our synagogue, has been supporting immigrant and refugee families from Guatemala and Afghanistan for several years, who, after initial resettlement with aid from NGOs, our congregation, and State of Oregon programs, are thriving. Other vulnerable groups need such support.

If newly arrived immigrant Oregonian families have additional case management and stabilization available for those who need it, SB 149 will both coordinate with and alleviate pressure on the mainstream housing and emergency shelter system in Oregon. SB 149 is the result of refugee resettlement agencies, immigrant-serving CBOs working together to ensure that we continue to welcome new neighbors effectively. This important work must be funded in order to ensure that the most vulnerable of the newly arrived have adequate support.

In a time of great uncertainty for this community, your vote for SB 149-3 will mean that a new generation of Oregonians feels safer and welcomed in our state.

Jane Rice