

HB 2508: Welcoming Refugees Bill

Our history of welcoming refugees is threatened.

Oregon is a critical part of the global response to the refugee crisis.



Countries in blue are where refugees come from who arrive in Oregon.

What is HB 2508?

HB 2508 will provide 1,800 refugees with Extended Case Management (ECM) over two years, including employment services and supports to school aged children. Refugees who receive ECM for two years are significantly less likely to depend on public assistance long-term. In addition, these funds will stabilize the resettlement process to ensure that refugees can reunite with their families and Oregon will remain a welcoming state for refugees.

Problem

Cuts in refugee admissions and funding at the federal level put local refugees at risk of falling through the cracks, experiencing economic hardship and their path to becoming full participants in our communities in jeopardy. In addition, funding gaps from federal sources for refugee resettlement are jeopardizing Oregon's history of welcoming refugees.

Solution

Investing in refugees from their first few years of arrival accelerates their trajectory for success. Studies have shown that with proper support and case management, refugees are generally employed within six months and bring immense contributions to the economy, diversity, and social fabric of the state. When refugees are better equipped with support services and ECM, crisis situations are less common, thus saving taxpayer money going toward emergency responses, emergency room visits and public assistance.

"I am grateful to America for welcoming and giving me a chance. In gratitude, I have spent the past 10 years working tirelessly to elevate myself and give support to others so that they can keep the American dream alive. I had only \$10 and a plastic bag upon my arrival in this country, and I was able to work my way up past self-sufficiency to being able to give back to the community."

~ Som Subedi, Refugee and Community Leader

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