



Building Resilience and Community Support and Capacity to Serve Refugees:

Lessons from Catholic Charities of Oregon

2 pm ET, Wednesday, October 16, 2019

**This webinar is intended as an off-the-record discussion with the JFI network.
Please direct all press inquiries to Mark Priceman at mpriceman@usccb.org.*

Introduction

Tony Cube, JFI National Manager, USCCB/MRS

Matt Wilch, Refugee Policy Advisor, USCCB/MRS

Matthew Westerbeck, Resettlement Director, CC of Oregon

Todd Scribner, Education Coordinator, USCCB/MRS



Landscape



Matt Wilch

Refugee Policy Advisor

MRS/USCCB



Last three years....

- ▶ Trajectory over last three years
 - Administration declining commitment
 - Congressional appropriations maintained
 - Reduced domestic, international infrastructure



Current Moment

- ▶ Current Moment
 - FY2020 PD
 - EO 13888



What do we do?

- ▶ Strengthen bi-partisan Congressional support for refugees
 - Public statements, letters to administration from members of Congress
 - Visit to refugee resettlement offices
 - Consider supporting the GRACE Act
- ▶ Build State, Local Support for refugees
 - Public statements, letters to administration from members of Congress
 - Consent to resettlement in State and Locale
- ▶ Build collaborations in Catholic world and beyond



Today's Call

- ▶ Oregon's success—USCCB wanting to put a spotlight on the good work and the approach as we explore how best to help the Catholic network build State and Local support and capacity
- ▶ USCCB collaboration with Universities



Oregon Success



Matthew Westerbeck
Resettlement Director
Catholic Charities of Oregon



HB 2508 B		Manning Jr		
Yea 27		3rd Reading		
May 0	Absent 2	Excused 1		
BAERTSCHIGER	DEMBROW	HASS	ANDERSON	TAYLOR
JR	FAGAN	HEARD	OLSEN	THATCHER
BENTZ	FREDERICK	JOHNSON	PROZANSKI	THOMSEN
BEYER	GELSER	KNOPP	RILEY	WAGNER
BOLES	GIROD	LINTHICUM	ROBLAN	PRESIDENT
BOQUIST	GOLDEN	MANNING JR	STEINER	COURTNEY
BURDICK	HANSELL	MONNES	HAYWARD	

#REFUGEES
WELCOME
HB 2508

Winning State Support for Refugee Services



Catholic Charities



Oregon's Refugee Resettlement Collaborative

- Catholic Charities of Oregon
- Lutheran Community Services NW
- Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon
- Unite Oregon
- IRCO (Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization)





Enrolled
House Bill 2508

Introduced by Representative PILUSO; Representatives ALONSO LEON, FAHEY, GREENLICK, BENNY-GUYER, NERON, PRUSAK, SCHOUTEN, WILLIAMS, Senators DEMBROW, GELSER, HANNING JR, MONNES ANDERSON (Presession filed.)

CHAPTER

AN ACT

- **List attributes of a strong champion**

- **Refugee constituents**
- **Chair or sits on human services, healthcare, and/or housing committee**
- **Proven record/ability to engage both sides of the aisle**

relating to refugees in Oregon; and declaring an emergency.
Whereas refugees arriving in the United States are at high risk and have high needs because of the long term trauma and suffering they have endured; and
Whereas studies have shown that with appropriate services and intensive case management, refugees generally become employed within six months of their arrival and make immense contributions to the economy, diversity and social fabric of this state; and
Whereas the federal government has been drastically cutting budgets for refugee services and the funding cuts have had a direct impact on refugees living in Oregon communities; and
Whereas additional cuts to the federal budget for refugee services are likely and will continue to prevent Oregon's refugees from receiving in full the specialized social services they need to become self-sufficient and thrive; now, therefore,
Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:
SECTION 1. (1) As used in this section:
(a) "Eligible agency" means an agency that has contracted with the United States Department of State under 8 U.S.C. 1522(c) to provide initial resettlement and case management services to refugees.
(b) "Refugee" means an individual who is not a United States citizen, who has been in the United States for 60 months or less and who is any of the following:





Oregon's Welcoming Refugees Bill – HB 2508

 Catholic Charities

USCCCB



News | Local | World | Nation

As Feds Crack Down, Refugee Resettlement Agencies Ask Oregon For Help

by **Erica Morrison** [Follow](#) OPB March 14, 2019 10:15 a.m. | Portland, Ore.

 Oregon Leaders Push To Help Refugees

00:00 04:21



[Download](#)

Related Content

On a cold and dark winter night, dozens of volunteers gathered at Portland International Airport to give a warm welcome to a family of 11.



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

Educating Legislators



Catholic Charities





Lunch & Learn

Advocacy Days





Bipartisan Talking Points

- The United States has been resettling refugees since end of WWII;
- Refugee Resettlement has ALWAYS been bipartisan and enjoyed bipartisan support in Congress;
- Republicans that have supported refugee resettlement (see Senator Mark Hatfield for Oregon);
- Refugee Resettlement has been an key part of our country's response to humanitarian crises, and important for international relationships;
- In fact, it was under President Reagan that the US welcomed the most refugees in a given year (Nearly 200,000 refugees in the early 1980's)





Economic Contributions

- Gather state-specific data on: tax revenue generated; consumer dollars;
- Refugees pay back \$21K more in taxes than they receive in benefits;
- Refugees are 1.5 times more likely to be small business owners/entrepreneurs;
- Avg. refugee household, within 25 years, earns \$14K more than the total average of all US households;
- Refugees have higher labor force participation;
- Refugee labor force participation is essential for a number of industries: manufacturing, hospitality, food and animal production, service industry;
- Immigration is essential to economic growth





Business Community and Health Care Systems



Materials and Social Media

- T-Shirts
- Stickers
- Postcards



Post Details Reported stats may be delayed from what appears on posts

Unite Oregon is asking for donations.

June 29 at 8:15 PM

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THIS JUST IN: HB 2508, the Refugees Welcome Bill, passed the Senate 27-0 and is on its way to the governor's desk. This bill ensures that Oregon can continue welcoming refugees, despite drastic cuts at the federal level. Thank you to our partners!! Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization Lutheran Community Services Northwest Catholic Charities of Oregon SOAR Immigration Legal Services We Are All America

\$55 raised for Unite Oregon

2 people donated.

Donate

10,432
People Reached

1,551
Engagements

Boost Post

266

17 Comments 83 Shares

Like

Comment

Share

Performance for Your Post

10,432 People Reached

862 Reactions, Comments & Shares

527 Like	183 On Post	344 On Shares
219 Love	86 On Post	133 On Shares
1 Haha	1 On Post	0 On Shares
3 Wow	1 On Post	2 On Shares
33 Comments	18 On Post	15 On Shares
83 Shares	83 On Post	0 On Shares
689 Post Clicks		
40 Photo Views	0 Link Clicks	649 Other Clicks

NEGATIVE FEEDBACK

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0 Report as Spam	0 Unlike Page

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The Future

Research:

- RAIN International
- Portland State University

Permanent Funding

- State Refugee Coordinator
- “Program Option Plan”



Oregon's Refugee Resettlement Collaborative



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- ▶ Lutheran Community Services NW
- ▶ Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon
- ▶ Unite Oregon
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USCCB & Universities



Todd Scribner
Education Coordinator
MRS/USCCB



Refugee Resettlement and Religion – USCCB/Princeton University Project

Objectives

- ▶ To fill the gap in our scholarly and practical understanding to strengthen refugee services
- ▶ To create a network of those working on and invested in resettlement
- ▶ To increase literacy in refugees' religious identities
- ▶ To support interfaith organizing and collaboration among service providers
- ▶ To open up channels of conversation between practitioners and scholars





Oral History Project

- ▶ Gathers and shares oral histories from refugees
 - Committed to collecting stories from, and involving, the full range of religious communities in an open access archive
- ▶ Provides an opportunity for further civic participation with and for refugees
- ▶ Enhances spaces of dialogue, listening, and chaplaincy within communities along intercultural and interfaith lines and across the country
- ▶ Let's collaborate!

Photo by [Brian Kostiuk](#) - [@BriKost](#) on Unsplash



Potential for partnerships

- ▶ Open to partnerships
- ▶ Intern Program
- ▶ Diverse Skills = Comprehensive Approach



Interested?

- ▶ Are you doing or interested in doing a CC of Oregon-type legislative effort in your state?

Contact Matt Wilch mwilch@usccb.org

- ▶ Are you interested in hosting a Princeton intern, or is a Catholic university in your area interested in partnering with USCCB to provide interns?

Contact Todd Scribner tscribner@usccb.org



Q & A / Discussion

jfi@uscgb.org

