



*From the  
Office of Representative Hoa Nguyen*

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**Rep. Hoa Nguyen Unveils 2024 Policies Aimed At Creating Sustainable Infrastructure for Immigrants and Improving Access to Childcare**

*The two bills Rep. Nguyen brings to the upcoming legislative session are forward-thinking and rooted in her understanding of what the district and the region need.*

**SALEM, Ore.** – In the days before the upcoming legislative session, Rep. Hoa Nguyen (D-East Portland and Damascus), a first-term legislator, current school board member, and the daughter of Vietnamese refugees released details of two concepts she will introduce. Both concepts deliver on a promise to foster effective communication and collaboration throughout the diverse communities she represents.

On January 10, Nguyen announced her two policy priorities for the short session during a public hearing before the [House Committee on Early Childhood and Human Services](#). LC 95 [now assigned as HB 4159] creates a pilot program to provide immediate support services to newcomers arriving in Oregon with little to no resources. LC 50 [now assigned as HB 4158] expands access to child care for families in need.

“As the daughter of Vietnamese refugees and an educator, I understand the disparities many families face,” said Nguyen. “The two bills I’m bringing this legislative session are the result of listening to diverse members of my community and dedicated collaboration from organizations that serve the people I represent.”

With **HB 4159**, Nguyen is responding to the recent closure of the Welcome Center [no official name given, also referred to as the Hugo by Fortify Holdings, the property management company] which led to the rehousing of 300 migrant households. The Welcome Center was established as an initial humanitarian response and now there is a need for a long-term, sustainable, and cost effective way to continue serving families arriving in Oregon in need.

Nguyen worked with over 30 community based organizations (CBOs) including Multnomah County and the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Advancement, to develop the concept. Modeled after the [U.S. Refugee Assistance Program \(USRAP\) Reception & Placement](#). HB 4159 seeks to create a pilot program to provide immediate wrap-around support services to newcomers in Oregon that may not meet eligibility for resources or services. The Office of Immigrant and Refugee Advancement with the support of the Oregon Department of Human Services would coordinate and contract with community based organizations to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate support services including:

- Streamlined intake, initial reception and case management.
- Short-term wraparound support including shelter, food, clothing, health care and transportation.
- Long-term support related to housing, education, employment, leadership development and technology.
- HB 4159 also creates an advisory committee to serve as a forum for sharing information and provide feedback to the organizations contracted to provide services based on annual audits and surveys. By creating a robust infrastructure to welcome newcomers, we would be prepared for an influx rather than be reactive to flows of migration.

“We all want to live in a welcoming state. Connecting newcomers to resources is about making sure all our neighbors are treated fairly, and everyone can find their place here. HB 4159 creates a public-private partnership between coordinated care organizations, the state, community based organizations, faith leaders, and the counties in Oregon to serve Newcomers who are trying to thrive in Oregon,” said Nguyen. “In leveraging existing programs such as the Healthier Oregon Program and Migrant Education, this pilot project would be a coordinated, streamlined and cost effective way to serve the community statewide. It is my hope that through this pilot program, Oregon will be poised and ready to receive federal funding if the federal government chooses to intervene and support newcomers. This is how we build up Oregon’s workforce and allow our newest Oregonians to integrate in our state and contribute to our collective success.”

Chief Sponsors of House Bill 4159 include Reps. Hoa Nguyen (D-East Portland and Damascus), Khanh Pham (D-Outer SE Portland), Courtney Neron (D-Wilsonville, Sherwood, King City,

Tigard/Bull Mountain & Parrett Mountain), and Thuy Tran (D-NE Portland). Other sponsors include Sens. Michael Dembrow (D-Portland), Sara Gelser Blouin (D-Corvallis), Kayse Jama (D-East Portland, Damascus, Boring), James Manning Jr. (D-N Eugene, W Eugene, Veneta), and Reps. Farrah Chaichi (D-Aloha, Beaverton & Hillsboro), Hai Pham (D-S Hillsboro & W Beaverton), Mark Gamba (D-Milwaukie), Dacia Grayber (D-SW Portland & E Beaverton), Lisa Reynolds (D-Washington County), Zach Hudson (D-East Multnomah County).

In **HB 4158**, Nguyen seeks to make necessary updates to language in HB 3005 that passed out of the legislature in 2023 to create investments in and improvements to access for Oregon child care facilities. When passed in 2023, HB 3005 created The Child Care Infrastructure Fund in the Department of Early Learning and Care and invested in child care facilities. The issue with the legislation was that certain child care providers that serve rural areas, provide culturally/linguistically appropriate care or to children with disabilities, and operate during nights and weekends were left out of the picture and could not access funds established in the initial legislation. Nguyen worked with Family Forward and other Oregon community partners to introduce this updated language that would ensure Oregon's small centers and in-home providers aren't being left out.

"We must ensure that there are dedicated and flexible funds available to support providers in starting or expanding businesses serving mixed-delivery care to parents and employers in need," Nguyen said about the bill.

Chief Sponsors of House Bill 4158 include Reps. Hoa Nguyen (D-East Portland and Damascus), Daniel Nguyen (D-Lake Oswego & SW Portland), and Thuy Tran (D-NE Portland). Other sponsors include Sens. Lew Frederick (D-N/NE Portland), Deb Patterson (D-Salem), Kayse Jama (D-East Portland, Damascus, Boring), Mark Meek (D-Clackamas County), and Reps. Jules Walters (D-West Linn/Tualatin), Ricki Ruiz (D-Gresham), and Lisa Reynolds (D-Washington County).

Nguyen believes that both policy initiatives will not only benefit her immediate district, but will also provide benefits to the entire state of Oregon.

In addition to these two policies, Nguyen will support other pieces of legislation that serve the best interest of the rural, suburban, & urban communities from Kelly Butte to Powell Butte, Barton to Carver.

To learn more about those pieces of legislation, follow the upcoming legislative session which begins on February 5 by signing up to receive regular updates from Nguyen's office through her website: <https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/nguyen>.

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