



To: Chair Monnes-Anderson and Vice Chair Kruse

From: Michael H. Balter, President & CEO

Date: May 13, 2013

Subject: Senate Health Care and Human Services – HB 3244

I am writing in support HB 3244 as amended.

This bill allows state resources to help homeless young people ages 18-21. Currently these services are only available until the young people are 18 years old. As you are well aware most homeless young people require continued assistance in their late teens and early twenties. This change is consistent with allowing youth in foster care to access services until 21.

Providers have worked closely with Department of Human Service staff and have developed amendments to address their previous concerns and technical adjustments.

There is no new fiscal impact because this bill does not require services to 21, but allows it. The resources available to implement the current statute are not increased to support this change.

Careful thought has been given to managing the age differences of children and youth and protecting all participants. Also attention has been paid to improving the capacity for independence of service participants.

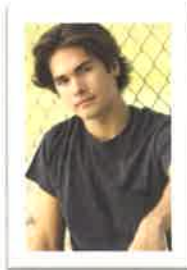
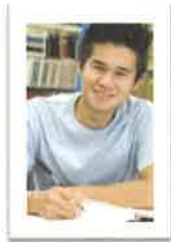
I am currently the chair of the Homeless and Runaway Youth affinity group for the Alliance of Children's Programs. This affinity group represents 7 provider agencies throughout the state that provide the majority of services to this population.

If you have any questions about this bill or services for this population please contact me at your convenience at 503. 542.2303.

I have attached a brief summary of the services Boys & Girls Aid provides to these young people in Washington County.

Quick Facts of Runaway & Homeless Youth Served in Washington County, Oregon

Presented by Michael H. Balter, President & CEO at Boys & Girls Aid



Overview and Importance of Service

Boys & Girls Aid has been involved in a collaborative effort to build a continuum of services to meet the needs of runaway and homeless youth in Washington County. The **goal is to expand and stabilize outreach, shelter, transitional living, and permanent housing services.**

Youth served at Safe Place are in desperate need of shelter, basic needs and guidance. Without this, **youth remaining homeless are at risk of sexual exploitation, prone to committing crimes in the community, and being unsafe to others and themselves.**

Service Achievements at Safe Place for Youth: Between May 2007 and September 2012

- **322 youth** were served with an average length of stay of 20 days;
- **6,705 nights of shelter** care were provided;
- **64% of youth** who stayed longer than three days **returned to school** and participated in our skill building activities;
- **49% of youth** who stayed longer than two weeks **participated in family counseling** to rebuild their relationships; and
- **75% of youth**, upon program completion, **returned home, moved in with a relative, or entered a transitional living program.**

Transitional Living Program

The **Transitional Living Program** at Boys & Girls Aid **serves youth for two years**, which **enables them to improve their income and education while learning the skills necessary for independent living.** Most of the youth served through this program came through Safe Place and most stay 18-24 months.

Lifetime Service Achievements in the Transitional Living Program since 2003

- 105 Youth Served
- 63% have increased their education level
- 61% have increased their income
- 66% have saved a portion of their income
- 70% have transitioned to living independently

The Return on Investment:

Every dollar invested in early intervention may result in nearly \$7 in cost savings by preventing and resolving problems before they become chronic. \$500,000 spent on Safe Place can save \$3.5 million annually by:

- Reducing the cost of intake through juvenile detention.
- Reducing street crime and incarceration.
- Promoting completion of GED and high school participation.
- Creating independent, functioning youth who can contribute to society.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development reports that **chronically homeless adults represent 20% of the homeless population, while consuming 80% of the resources** at an estimate cost of \$42,000 per person, per year.

If transition aged **youth ages 16-23 are left without resources, they are at risk of entering the adult homeless system** or becoming chronically homeless.

Leverage of Public & Private Funds

Shelter: To make **7 shelter beds available 24/7, 365 days a year, the cost is \$500,000** annually: \$302,753 annual operating funds have been secured. This includes:

- \$48,753 from Washington County Commission on Children and Families
- \$15,000 from the City of Beaverton
- \$1,000 from the City of Tigard
- \$60,000 from Washington County Juvenile Department
- \$5,500 from the City of Hillsboro
- \$37,500 from the Community Development Block Grant
- \$125,000 from the Family & Youth Services Bureau-Basic Center
- \$10,000 from the Emergency Shelter Grant

The gap of \$209,089 must be raised in private funds by the Board of Directors at Boys & Girls Aid.



Transitional Living Program: To make **13 transitional living beds available the cost is \$414,872** annually: \$230,229 annual operating funds have been secured. This includes:

- \$135,436 from the Dept. of Health and Human Services-Family & Youth Services Bureau
- \$116,621 from the Dept. of Housing and Urban Development

The gap of \$171,133 must be raised in private funds by the Board of Directors at Boys & Girls Aid.