



North Clackamas Schools
engaged · inspired · ready

North Clackamas Family Support Center
6031 SE King Road
Milwaukie, OR 97222
Phone: 503-353-5663
Fax: 503-353-5664

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my job, as the homeless liaison for the North Clackamas School District, to identify, engage with, and provide resources to our school district's population of homeless students and families. Over the past several years this has allowed me to closely witness the affect the housing crisis in the Portland metro area has had on low-incomes families. In our district, we have seen families displaced due to rent increases, no-cause evictions, and evictions for non-payment of rent. Families in our community see their rent increase quickly to an untenable amount and are forced to move in with friends and family members to small and overcrowded apartments where they live under the radar and at the mercy of the landlord. They are given no-cause evictions because their landlord decides they want to sell or remodel to increase their property value. They are evicted because a parent's work hours were reduced, or there was a death in the family, or the car they need for work was damaged in a hit and run and they can't afford to cover the deductible and the rent. Lack of affordable childcare is a persistent factor.

When this happens, a typical family in our area could move in with another family temporarily while they get back on their feet. They might be able to find another place to live in a few months, but the chances are high that the new place won't be in their original neighborhood, further affecting the stability in their child's education. Many times they are not able to find a new place. Situational instances of homelessness can easily stretch into years of instability coupled with several losses; loss of home, loss of pets, loss of belongings to one of the several new storage facilities in Milwaukie. Loss of school assignments to the home your family is no longer welcome inside (turns out its way easier to take a 0 than to let your teacher know why you didn't do the homework). Loss of parental time as your mom and step-dad moved into a hotel with your younger siblings after the family was evicted, but there isn't room for you so you crash at a friend's house and try to see your mom on Sundays (the only day off she has all week). Finally, and profoundly, carefree childhood days are lost as your family's crisis envelopes you. You are terrified, for example, that one of your classmates will see the special transportation you've been taking or notice that your grey hoodie hasn't seen the inside of a washing machine in weeks because it's hard to keep it clean when you're living in an old RAV 4 with your mom and two cats.

It is my hope that the effect of this crisis can be mitigated when it comes to our students and young people. I believe that with the support of the legislature through progressive policymaking we can work to provide families with better options if they are at risk of losing their housing so they can avoid the trauma of homelessness. I believe we can find solutions to lessen the impact of a housing loss if one does occur. The lack of affordable housing leaves a giant gaping hole in any perceived safety net. Protections for renters as landlords attempt to take advantage of the rising cost of housing are badly needed – as soon as possible.



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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Katie Ray". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Katie" and last name "Ray" clearly distinguishable.

Katie Ray
Homeless Liaison
North Clackamas School District
6031 SE King Rd.
Milwaukie, OR 97222
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