



**Boys &  
Girls Aid**

April 11, 2019

To Whom it May Concern:

This evening, the Joint Committee on Student Success holds a public hearing on their proposal to invest an additional \$2 billion into our state's education system. Investments include more funding for the classroom, for early learning programs, for school meals and for mental health supports, among other items. Repeatedly, committee members have stated that a student's educational success is as much tied to what happens outside of school as what happens inside the classroom.

Our organization, which provides shelter and transitional housing to homeless and runaway youth in Washington County, knows firsthand that housing stability is essential for K-12 students to be successful in school. It is estimated that 42% of youth who become homeless drop out of school due to their housing instability. Those who remain in school while homeless face ongoing challenges such as inadequate transportation, study space, sleep and nutrition which all affect academic success. We ask that an investment in housing be considered as a critical support for students along with the other supports being proposed for student success.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

  
Andrea Logan Sanders, MS

Program Administrator, Boys & Girls Aid

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