



CITY OF GRESHAM

January 31, 2020

House Committee on Human Services and Housing
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Se. NE, HR 50
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for HB 4039

Dear Chair Keny-Guyer and Members of the Committee:

I write to express the City of Gresham's support for HB 4039, which would increase resources for programs that support homeless youth. The City of Gresham strongly supports state investments that target the troubling, and growing issue of homelessness, which heavily impacts local government resources and services.

The Second Home program that operates in Gresham has helped target youth homelessness by making safe home placements for unaccompanied youth. Gresham's mediation program assists Second Home by helping mediate agreements between the host family and the youth. So far, Second Home has housed 13 unaccompanied/homeless youth in Gresham, 12 of whom have successfully graduated high school.

The Gresham City Council's legislative priorities strongly urge state investment in this critical issue, and the City of Gresham deeply appreciates the Committee's interest in exploring additional funding to alleviate youth homelessness.

Sincerely,

Eric Chambers
Government Relations Director