



City of Portland

March 2, 2021

House Committee on Human Services  
900 Court St NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Williams, and Members of the Committee:

We would like to express our support for HB 2544, which would allocate \$4.4 Million in two-year grants to organizations that provide services and host home projects for unaccompanied homeless youth.

According to the 2019 Point in Time Count of Homelessness in Portland/Gresham/Multnomah County, nearly 1 in 8 homeless people are under the age of 24. Disproportionately, 54% of homeless people under the age of 24 are people of color. Since the previous Point of Time Count conducted in 2017, we've seen a nearly 34% decline in homeless people under the age of 24. However, more work remains to be done.

The funds allocated by HB 2544 will help make a difference in providing essential wrap-around services and a path to permanent housing for homeless youth in Oregon. HB 2544 will also complement Measure 26-210, which was passed by voters in the Portland Metro region to provide wrap-around services such as rent assistance, addiction and mental health support, and employment support.

The City of Portland is grateful for the work of the House Committee on Human Services to author and introduce HB 2544. We stand as a partner with you and we are grateful to the state for acting with compassion and urgency.

Sincerely,

Ted Wheeler  
Mayor

Dan Ryan  
Commissioner