



Oregon Coalition of Christian Voices

HB 2544 OCCV urges passage of services for unaccompanied homeless youth

Testimony for the House Committee on Human Services– John Calhoun – 2.24.2021

The Oregon Coalition of Christian Voices is committed to seeking justice in Oregon for our vulnerable neighbors. No one is more vulnerable than unaccompanied homeless youth.

In the discussion of homelessness in Oregon, unaccompanied youth get little attention in the media. Yet the data regarding them is chilling.

- Oregon has the highest rate of youth homelessness in the nation
- Washington state spends more than 7 times per capita what Oregon spends on unaccompanied homeless youth.
- These funds will payback the state 4:1 over time

These children have been abused by family or our society or they would not be where they are. We have an obligation as citizens of this state to reach out and provide help where we can. HB 2544 is a start. It will still not get us to the level of aid provided across the Columbia River. However, it is a start and the least that we can do. We urge passage of HB 2544.