

February 7, 2024

Oregon Senate Committee on Human Services

RE: SB1521 – 6 amendment

Chair Gelser-Blouin and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this important legislation. I appreciate the effort to address and fix regulatory gaps regarding organizations working with youth who are in temporary lodging.

We have read and re-read amendment -6 to better understand the full breadth of SB 1521 and its impact. Due to the shortened timeframe of the short session, combined with the amendments, the potential for unintended consequences, misinterpretations, and error is significant and could negatively and unfairly impact youth, their families, and those who are serving them.

We are asking the committee to identify a solution that would both address the legislation's intent, if only temporary, and provide sufficient time to answer questions, address concerns, and amend SB1521, if needed. Without this time, we are certain there will be unintended consequences that could leave youth and their families without much needed services and supports.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. We look forward to having more dialogue about how best to support Oregon's youth and their families.

Thank you for your consideration to identify an alternative solution that allows for sufficient dialogue about this important legislation.

Sincerely,

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