



OREGON HOUSING *and*
COMMUNITY SERVICES

725 SUMMER STREET NE, SUITE B | SALEM, OR 97301
503-986-2000 | www.oregon.gov/OHCS

Re: Testimony in Support of SB 814 – Rental Assistance for OYA Youth

February 5th, 2025

Chair Pham, Vice Chair Anderson,

My name is Casey Houlihan, Legislative and Government Relations Coordinator for Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS), and I support the work of our Housing Stabilization Division. I am here today to testify on behalf of OHCS in support of Senate Bill 814, which relates to rental assistance program eligibility for youth experiencing homelessness.

Stable housing is the foundation for long-term success, and this is particularly true for young people transitioning out of systems like the Oregon Youth Authority (OYA). Frequently, and for several systemic reasons, we see these youth facing significant barriers to securing housing. These hurdles often put them at increased risk of homelessness, instability, and recidivism.

SB 814 helps address this challenge by ensuring that OYA youth have access to long-term rental assistance and the support they need to build stable, independent futures. This bill aligns with OHCS's mission to provide housing stability for vulnerable populations, and it supports Governor Kotek's priority of addressing homelessness at every level.

Expanding access to housing resources for young people at such a critical transition point is not just an investment in their future—it's a proactive, upstream strategy to ensure housing stability and reduce long-term homelessness.

For these reasons, OHCS supports SB 814, and I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony today. I am happy to answer any questions you may have at this time.

Respectfully,

Casey Houlihan
Legislative and Government Relations Coordinator
Oregon Housing and Community Services

