

Submitter: Alcina Howe
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3079

Dear Representative Isadore and Senator Reynolds,

I'm grateful that the Legislature is contemplating HB3079, which would be a positive step toward breaking the cycle of youth homelessness and preventing it from extending into adulthood. Early intervention for youth is so impactful, and allocating resources to help youth in need is important for our community.

Homelessness is undoubtedly a significant crisis for our state, affecting families, adults, youth, and children, throughout our communities. I serve on the board of directors for New Avenues for Youth, a nonprofit dedicated to ending youth homelessness. Through the organization I have become aware that one of the greatest predictors of ongoing adult homelessness is experiencing homelessness as a young person, and I want to see us provide more support to prevent this for our children.

Non-profits across our state have demonstrated the ability to change young people's paths, however these services have been underfunded by the state for many years. Right now, non-profits are struggling and without investment and stabilization more children will be harmed and this problem will continue to exponentially grow.

HB3079 helps to both support and stabilize current programs and expand services into counties that currently have no options for housing unstable youth. Furthermore, HB3079 begins to develop a long-term allocation strategy that will help stabilize our statewide response and create a foundation for real, systemic change.

PLEASE support this very important bill, and help us get it through the WM Committee and funded for the 2025-2027 biennium.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to the future of Oregon's youth.

Best Regards,

Alcina Howe
Board of Directors
New Avenues For Youth