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To: House Committee on Early Childhood & Human Services  
Oregon Legislature  
Via Email

From: Sean Suib  
Executive Director, New Avenues for Youth

February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Chair Hartman, Vice Chair Nguyen and Committee members:

I am writing today to express my support for House Bill 3079, which would play a critical role in our effort to stop the cycle of homelessness across our state.

Sadly, homelessness has reached crisis levels across Oregon, affecting families, adults, youth, and children, throughout our communities. As the Executive Director of New Avenues for Youth, a nonprofit dedicated to ending youth homelessness, I see young people every day moving quickly from housing unstable situations to experiencing literal homelessness. Sometime in a matter of days. Study after study shows that one of the greatest predictors of chronic, adult homelessness is time spent experiencing homelessness as a youth. I know we can do better for Oregon kids!

Non-profits across our state, through YEH programming, have demonstrated the ability to change young people's trajectory (80-85% success rates), however these services have been woefully underfunded by the state for decades. Right now, non-profits are struggling more than ever and without investment and stabilization more children will be harmed and this problem will continue to exponentially grow.

HB3079 builds on the success of bills passed over the past three years by helping to both support and stabilize current YEH programs and expand services into counties that currently have no options for housing unstable youth. HB3079 provides much needed training resources to ensure evidence-based and best practice approaches are delivered throughout the state, and that the non-profit workforce has the training needed to best support 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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sean Suib', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Sean Suib, LCSW  
Executive Director  
New Avenues for Youth