



2/21/2025

House Committee on Early Childhood and Human Services
900 Court St. NE
Salem Oregon 97301

Re: Support for HB 3079 – To stabilize resourcing and capacity building for homeless youth services and programming.

To Chair Hartmann and Co-Chairs Nguyen and Scharf –

Thank you for your consideration of HB 3079 which would sustain - and we hope expand - vital funding necessary to support on-going life essential services for youth experiencing housing instability and homelessness. For two decades HomePlate Youth Services has been Washington County's only provider of drop-in centers and street outreach for youth ages 12-24. Starting in 2005 with a \$3,000 grant and community vision, our humble beginnings have exploded to comprehensive services in street outreach, housing, employment, and education programs. From offering hot meals and community connection in a church basement two decades ago to now having a 4,000 square foot Beaverton-based center of our own, we are proud to have served about 1,000 homeless youth this last year.

Like many service providers across the state that rely heavily on a mix of public funding and philanthropic support, we are struggling with addressing the increasing need within a volatile revenue stream and growing cost of service. We have seen a 200% increase in the number of youth coming to us for services from 2022 to 2024, while resources dwindle amid the loss of pandemic-era resources and uncertainty in ongoing federal supports. As a result of community need far outpacing our resources, we have taken severe cost cutting measures at the detriment to youth in our community. It takes the support of public partners at all levels, especially the state, to meet service providers in the middle, working together on a unified strategy to address youth homelessness through both housing and wraparound support.

HomePlate is committed to sustaining essential services and further expanding capacity when able to, but we can't do it alone. A pledge from the state to allocate resources to support this critical work is necessary for longevity to be possible. It is crucial our most vulnerable youth doesn't lose opportunities and consistency in service from the only provider in our region. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Alex Phan and Chris Cannon
Co-Chairs on behalf of the Board of HomePlate Youth Services