



February 26, 2025

Representative Annessa Hartman
Chair, House Committee on Early Childhood and Human Services
900 Court St NE, H-487
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for House Bill 3079,

Dear Chair Hartman, Vice-Chairs Nguyen and Scharf, and Members of the Committee,

The Oregon Housing Alliance is urging your support of HB 3079 which will ensure the full continuum of service for Oregon's unaccompanied houseless youth, those who are not in the physical custody of their parents or guardians, and who are homeless.

The Oregon Housing Alliance is a statewide coalition of over 100 member organizations, including tenant organizations; affordable housing developers and operators; social service providers and shelter operators; Community Action Agencies; Public Housing Authorities; housing industry businesses and professionals; city and county governments; and community-based nonprofits and advocacy groups. Many of our members work tirelessly to implement and maintain our shelters, re-housing programs and prevent homelessness in our state.

Youth homelessness is one of the highest predictors of chronic adult homelessness. As we continue to address our State's homelessness crisis, addressing youth homelessness is a cost effective strategy. Oregon's Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program, is a model program with a strong national reputation. HB 3079 provides financing to expand or enhance existing shelter facilities, outreach, culturally specific services, mental health/substance use services, and other transitional housing options for houseless youth. This program provides youth with long-term housing support as well as a stable home, mentorship, and support system while they attend school.

Together these critical components help create stability for youth as they navigate a traumatic and life-altering event. Every Oregonian deserves a home that is affordable, stable, accessible and safe, especially children and youth. To this end, we urge your support of HB 3079.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rebekah Markillie".

Rebekah Markillie
Oregon Housing Alliance
rmarkillie@neighborhoodpartnerships.org