



Date: April 2, 2025
To: House Education Committee
From: Morgan Allen, COSA
Subject: House Bill 3059 - Study to Improve Services to Youth in Residential Facilities

Chair Neron, Vice Chairs Dobson and McIntire, and Members of the House Education Committee,

My name is Morgan Allen and I am here today on behalf of the Coalition of Oregon School Administrators and our 3,000 members across Oregon. We are asking the House Education Committee to support House Bill 3059 and send the bill to the Ways and Means Committee for their consideration.

Background - Serving Students in Residential Facilities

This legislation is intended to help improve educational outcomes for K-12 students who are placed in residential facilities operated by human service providers; these are sometimes referred to as group homes. We want to make clear that this bill is not about the placement or location of residential facilities and group homes, but rather how best school districts and human service providers can collaborate to support a youth when they are placed in one of these facilities.

More and more residential facilities are operating in small and medium sized school districts that may not have the expertise or resources that our large districts have in serving students with significant social, mental health, and behavioral needs. Oftentimes, these students are being placed far from their home district and community.

Additionally, many of these students' educational services qualify for High Cost Disability Account reimbursement. But as this Committee knows, those reimbursements are falling far short of eligible expenses which puts further strain on the budgets of all districts serving these students.

You will hear from two school district superintendents today who have faced significant staffing and budgetary challenges when students are placed in their communities. Our members would like the operators of residential facilities and the school district responsible



for educating the students to work together, collaborate, and share information that centers all of the needs of each individual student: educational needs, social and emotional needs, and mental health needs.

HB 3059 - Convening Education and Human Services Partners to Support Students

HB 3059 as drafted asks the Oregon Department of Human Services and the Oregon Department of Education to conduct a study and convene human service and education partners to:

- Review gaps in funding to serve these students;
- Review gaps in services for these students, and
- Review gaps in information sharing and communication between students, families, human service providers, school districts, and ESDS.

Additionally, an advisory group is tasked with making additional requests for information for consideration during the study. Ultimately, we want actionable recommendations shared with the Legislature after the agency and partners have time to consider these questions.

The advisory group includes representatives from school districts, including educators, group homes, and disability rights advocates. We want actionable policy recommendations to help improve the outcomes for these students. And we want all partners to have a voice in this process.

Please Support House Bill 3059

We have spoken to representatives from DHS and ODE about the bill and asked them to share any questions, concerns, or if any technical amendments are needed. Based on that feedback, we have drafted a -1 amendment to ask ODE to lead the work with the support of DHS, truly making this a K-12 policy bill. It also clarifies the facilities that are part of the study.

We know that this bill has a fiscal impact and resources are limited in 2025. But we must improve the collaboration between human service providers and educators if we want to help change the lives of these students for the better.

Thank you for your time today. I will turn it over to my members and would be happy to answer any questions.