

Submitter: Paige Press
On Behalf Of: Central Oregon Youth Action Board
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

Members of the committee, my name is Paige Press. I am 16, and speaking on behalf of the Central Oregon Youth Action Board. I am here in support of measure 5008. As a board, whose majority have experienced, or are experiencing homelessness, we work to represent teens and young adults who have faced the same challenges.

Oregon has the third highest amount of homeless young people in the country, and the fifth highest amount of unaccompanied youth expecting homelessness in America. HB 5008 can help.

Along with other programs, 5008 would fund the Youth experiencing homelessness program, or YEHP. This would fund shelters, case management services and help increase the quantity and decrease the cost of housing in for teens and young adults in our communities

Both my coworkers and I have seen and experienced the effects of programs similar to this one, and have seen them change people's lives.

If this bill dos not pass, the almost 19 million budget for YEHP, and many other supportive programs for an especially vulnerable community in our state will disappear. This will leave many youth without resources.

On behalf of the central Oregon youth action board, I support HB 5008