



Dear Co-Chairs Lieber and Sanchez and Members of the Committee,

My name is Brittany Means-Luna, and I serve as the Vice President of Homeless Youth and Alternative Education Services at Looking Glass Community Services, a long-standing nonprofit in Lane County that provides critical housing, behavioral health, and education services to vulnerable youth and families in our community.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of the emergency funding proposed in HB 5006, including resources that would sustain life-saving shelter programs like PEER Shelter in Lane County.

PEER Shelter is a 24-bed, low-barrier emergency shelter that serves youth ages 16–24 and their children. Many of the individuals we serve have experienced significant trauma, homelessness, and systemic barriers to stability. At PEER Shelter, we provide more than a place to sleep, we offer safety, dignity, and a foundation from which youth can begin to build self-sufficient futures.

Since opening in 2023, PEER Shelter has been a vital part of the Behavioral Health Resource Network (BHRN) in Lane County, funded through Measure 110. In only 16 months, we have supported 366 unduplicated young people, their young children, and their pets, with not only shelter, but also access to peer counseling, case management, substance use treatment, mental health treatment, medical care, supported employment, benefits enrollment, parenting supports, and connectivity to housing. In March 2025 alone the PEER Shelter had 14 guests transitioned into housing programs.

The PEER Shelter is at its full capacity of 24 youth every night with even more youth wanting to enter our care. Unfortunately, with the reduced M110 funding, the shelter’s capacity will be reduced to 13 youth come July 1st, 2025. Without immediate emergency investment, we risk turning away a minimum of 11 youth each night with no safe place to go and worse, losing the progress we’ve made in helping them transition out of homelessness and into stability.

I urge you to consider the long-term impact of disinvesting in emergency shelter. The cost of inaction is staggering. When youth do not have access to shelter and support, they are more likely to cycle through emergency departments, engage with the criminal justice system, or remain stuck in generational poverty. These outcomes come at a far greater cost to our public systems than the temporary, yet transformative, support that shelters like ours provide.

HB 5006 offers a vital opportunity to prevent that outcome. By allocating emergency resources now, we can ensure Oregon’s youth have access to safe shelter, basic needs, and the support necessary to heal and thrive. And while this emergency funding is essential, we also recognize the continued need for sustainable investment to truly address the housing and behavioral health crisis in our state.

At Looking Glass, we believe every young person deserves the chance to feel safe, supported, and capable of building a better future. I thank you for your service and your attention to this urgent matter, and I respectfully urge your support of HB 5006.

Sincerely,

Brittany Means-Luna
Vice President of Homeless Youth & Alternative Education Services
Looking Glass Community Services

Looking Glass Programs

Outpatient Services

Counseling Program
Mental Health and Substance Use

Homeless Services

PEER Shelter
Station 7 Shelter
New Roads Drop-In Center
Rural Drop In-Center
Housing Services

Educational & Vocational Services

Riverfront School & Career Center
Center Point School
New Roads School

Residential Services

Regional Crisis Center East
Regional Crisis Center West



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