



PO Box 285 • Corvallis, OR 97339
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June 1st, 2025

Testimony in Support of HB 3079

Submitted by: Kendra Phillips

Executive Director, Jackson Street Youth Services

My name is Kendra Phillips, and I serve as the Executive Director of Jackson Street Youth Services, a nonprofit organization dedicated to serving youth and young adults experiencing homelessness across Linn and Benton Counties. On behalf of the young people we serve, I am writing to strongly oppose the proposed cuts to the Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program (YEHP), HB3970.

For the past biennium, our organization has received \$1 million in YEHP funding from the state. These dollars are not just numbers on a page — they represent housing, hope, and the possibility of a future for hundreds of youth and young adults in our community who are navigating the unimaginable challenge of homelessness. Through YEHP, we provide safe shelter, transitional and supportive housing, mental health care, harm reduction, educational and vocational support, and case management — all critical services that help youth transition from instability to self-sufficiency.

In the past year alone, YEHP funding has enabled us to:

- Serve over 185 youth, providing emergency and transitional housing.
- Increase access to outreach, education support, and prevention services by 70%.

Without these funds, we would be forced to drastically reduce the scope of our services — turning away young people who have nowhere else to go. Cuts to YEHP would mean fewer shelter beds, longer waitlists, and lost opportunities to intervene early in cycles of chronic homelessness. For youth who are already disproportionately impacted by poverty, racism, family rejection, and systems involvement, these cuts would not just be harmful — they would be devastating.

YEHP is a lifeline — not only for the young people we serve but for our entire state. The long-term costs of youth homelessness — from emergency room visits and incarceration to lost productivity and public assistance — far exceed the cost of proactive, targeted support.

Jackson Street helps youth 24/7/365



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Investments in youth today are investments in a stronger, safer, more equitable future for all of us.

I urge you to protect — and ideally increase — funding for the Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program. Our youth deserve stability. They deserve opportunity. They deserve a state that does not turn its back on them in their most vulnerable moments.

Thank you for your time, your service, and your consideration of this critical matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Kendra Phillips".

Kendra Phillips
Executive Director
Jackson Street Youth Services