

Submitter: Kaitlin Pabo-Eulberg
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3970
Chair Bowman, Vice-Chair Drazan, Vice-Chair Pham, and Members of the
Committee,

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to Oregon's children, youth, and young adults. My name is Rev. Kaitlin Pabo-Eulberg and I am writing on behalf of Spirit of Grace Church in Beaverton in support of HB 3079 and ensuring a full continuum of services for Oregon's unaccompanied houseless youth and families.

I hope you will join me in affirming housing as a basic human right for all Oregonians. HB 3079 provides funding for homeless youth services in rural Oregon through the Youth Emergency Housing Program. This Program provides flexible funding to help prevent family homelessness through things like rent assistance, transportation and legal services. HB 3970 also provides funding to expand or enhance existing shelter facilities, outreach, culturally specific services, behavioral health and substance use services for houseless youth.

As a pastor and a chaplain working in oncology at Providence, I meet people who are on the brink of losing housing or are couch surfing. I think especially of the queer teens who are not safe in their families of origin who end up experiencing houselessness due to their safety nets not supporting them. All children deserve to have a safety net as they are developing as humans who will be adults contributing to our greater society. This funding is crucial for supporting these teens who have so much to offer our society if we invest in them today.

In the United States, half of homeless adults first experienced homelessness in their youth. We know that by investing in services for this population that we can and will deter lifetimes of housing instability and homelessness. Every child and young adult deserves to have access to safe and stable support services that help them thrive. HB 3970 ensures that is a reality for our young Oregonians experiencing homelessness.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Rev. Kaitlin Pabo-Eulberg