



DEVELOPING THRIVING COMMUNITIES

June 2, 2025

House Committee on Rules
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Support for HB 3970

Chair Bowman, Vice-Chair Drazan, Vice-Chair Pham and Members of the Committee:

My name is Karen Saxe and I work at DevNW, an affordable housing development and asset-building agency serving Lane, Linn, Benton, Lincoln, Marion, Polk and Clackamas Counties. DevNW embarks on comprehensive community development throughout our seven-county service area through services aimed at increasing financial stability for individuals and families as well as through economic and housing development.

For the last decade, DevNW has steadily increased our services for transitioned-aged youth experiencing homelessness. From opening the first in the state housing development specifically dedicated to this population in 2015 in Eugene, to launching wraparound services, housing navigation and rental assistance in Lane and Clackamas Counties, to opening a second housing development just last year—we know that ending the cycle of chronic homelessness starts with ending youth homelessness.

We support HB 3970, which provides funding to support a full continuum of services for Oregon's unaccompanied houseless young adults and families.

Our Youth Housing Initiative leverages state funds with federal funding and private support—a deep recognition that we all have a role to play. Our case managers provide a neutral, trusted place for youth, helping first with housing stability then comprehensive services such as employment and/or education connections, engagement with physical, mental and/or behavioral health care providers, and a suite of financial and asset-building services to ensure our participants can make informed decisions for their future. Our services are centered on youth choice and adapted based on their needs.

devNW.org



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HB 3970 would ensure that youth who enter our programming can engage in a comprehensive suite of services, services that help ensure both immediate and longer term stability-from housing and to health. These programs change lives.

We thank you for all of your work and encourage your support of HB 3970.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "KS", written over a horizontal line.

Karen Saxe

Director of Policy, Advocacy and Strategic Relationships
DevNW