

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 Linda Reinhardt and I am writing 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.

I am a volunteer with Family Promise of Metro East and it is my honor to work with families with children of all ages experiencing homelessness. There is nothing that impacts their sense of self worth more than not having stable housing, especially after times of trauma. Our society needs to do better to lift up all peoples, especially the vulnerable youth. Please grant them the simple dignity of providing the support they so desperately need.

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.

*Linda Reinhardt*