

Submitter: Andre Partsafas
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4149

Dear Chair, Vice Chairs and Members of the Committee,

Below is the transcript of what I wished to share in public testimony today on behalf of House Bill 4149.

My name is Andrea Partsafas, and I am speaking to strongly support House Bill 4149.

I serve as the Executive Director of Federal Programs and School Improvement in the Medford School District. My role includes being the district liaison for students who qualify for federal protections under the McKinney Vento Act.

In the Medford School District, approximately 6% of our students experience homelessness each year. Put another way, in an average classroom of 20 students, it is likely that one child is living in a transitory situation—sleeping in a shelter, living in a car, or staying in substandard/unstable housing.

These are not abstract numbers for me.

These are children who come to school carrying stress, uncertainty, and barriers that most adults would struggle to manage.

House Bill 4149 is critical because it ensures that systems and protections remain in place for students experiencing homelessness. When these frameworks exist, school districts, community partners, educators, and families can focus their time and energy where it belongs: supporting children to be present, engaged, and successful in school. These policies reduce chaos, remove barriers, and allow schools to address the needs of the whole child—academically, socially, and emotionally.

No child chooses to be unhoused. And for those of us who work in education, there is a collective sense of relief in knowing that we can continue to rely on these supports to ensure stability, access, and dignity for our most vulnerable students. I urge you to support this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Andrea Partsafas