

Submitter: Angela Zbikowski
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4149
February 9, 2026

HB 4149
House Committee on Education

Dear Honorable Chair Hudson and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support of HB 4149, which addresses the urgent need to support students experiencing homelessness.

As former foster and now adoptive parent who has cared for 13 children in crisis, I have witnessed firsthand the impact of housing instability on students. For children in unstable living conditions, school is often the only place they find consistency, belonging and hope.

I currently serve on the Medford School Board. As a school district, it is our responsibility to ensure that all students, regardless of their housing status, can access education without barriers. The stability and belonging that school provides are essential for academic success, social development, and overall well-being. The reality is, schools are strong hubs of community all across Oregon. When children lose access to that community, they are paying the price for situations they didn't create.

To quote Representative Steve Kagan, "If we get public education right, everything else will follow. But if we get it wrong, not much else will matter." Getting it right, for students experiencing housing instability, means ensuring that we hold ourselves accountable for not letting those students fall through the cracks. It means creating policies aligned to the values we hold most sacred. For me, as for so many others in education, I deeply value looking out for our most vulnerable and strongly support policies that do the same.

Poverty does not care about congressional district lines, school district lines, or party affiliation. The children living in this cycle of trauma in towns across our state need us to stand up for them. I urge you to support HB 4149. By passing this bill, we will not only fulfill our duty to these students but also give them the tools to build a better future for themselves, so that they are empowered to break the cycle.

Sincerely,
Angela Zbikowski

Director, Medford 549c School Board