

February 6, 2026

HB 4149

House Committee on Education

Dear Honorable Chair Hudson, Vice Chairs Dobson and McIntire, and Members of the Committee:

I am Casey Stine, Case Manager at Maslow Project serving youth in schools experiencing homelessness in Jackson County. My work with youth involves upholding the McKinney Vento Act for students. I write in strong support of HB 4149.

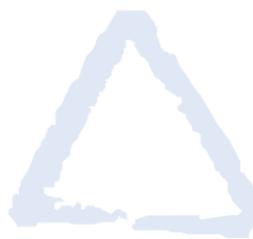
Youth experiencing homelessness frequently tell us that school stability is the hardest thing to maintain when everything else is changing. They face enrollment and attendance barriers when they are moving frequently, staying in motels or with other people, or sleeping in places not meant for habitation.

We frequently encounter youth who are living in shelters or constantly moving from one couch to another. Many of these families face uncertainty about their next place to stay, often lacking reliable transportation for themselves, let alone a way to get their children to school. This instability can lead to students missing significant amounts of school, causing them to fall behind academically and feel insecure in the classroom environment.

Other students feel they can't participate in clubs and sports because they can't afford the fees while they are trying to pay for the hotel they are in at the same time. They aren't able to find a way home after football practice or ski club. The McKinney-Vento Act plays a crucial role in providing these students with a sense of stability amidst their ever-changing living situations. It enables them to form meaningful connections within the school community and build resilience, equipping them to face challenges beyond the classroom.

We support this bill because it strengthens practical protections that prevent educational disruption, including:

- Immediate enrollment even when youth lack documents during a crisis;
- School placement stability so youth can remain connected to their teachers, peers, and services.
- Transportation supports so school stability is possible in reality; and
- Clear dispute resolution so families and youth can resolve issues quickly.





stabilize • engage • thrive

This is a bill that will reduce barriers, support student success, and help prevent homelessness from becoming a lifelong educational disadvantage. We urge your support.

Sincerely,

Casey Stine
Case Manager
Maslow Project
Medford, OR

