

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

Growing up, there was a period in my life where things were not the most ideal. Within the confusion of my own home situation and wondering where I would end up, I was introduced to McKinney-Vento program. At first, I had no idea what it was – in truth I was more concerned whether I'd be able to finish sophomore year of high school. Better yet, if I'd be able to complete the remaining years of my high school life as there had been no plan made nor an idea of what was coming next. McKinney-Vento made it possible for me to remain in my school of origin and stay connected to teachers and people who supported me.

I finished my academic career whilst being rehoused. Despite the turmoil I faced throughout this part of my life, I had immense help from the teachers who believed in me and the family that truly mattered to me. I was able to graduate on time with the help of McKinney-Vento act without worry for the following years of enrollment as I approached my junior and senior years of high school.

Finishing high school with the McKinney Vento act, I went on to college and have successfully stayed housed in my community and contribute to a Youth Leadership program and help others like myself.

I strongly support House Bill 4149 because students who can retain their stable learning environment can graduate and feel there is hope in their future. Thank you for your time and consideration.