

February 6, 2026

House Bill 4149

House Committee on Education

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

When I was in high school and moving around from one county to another, I had no idea what McKinney Vento was or what it could do for me. I had finally been in a school for longer than a year and due to circumstances outside of her control, my grandma had to sell her house and move. Without McKinney Vento I would have had to leave South Medford High School for the second time, leaving all my connections that I had made behind once again. I was able to gain transportation to and from the school and stay in the school to graduate.

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 contributed 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.

Sincerely,

Jaerod Garcia

Youth Advisory Council Member, Maslow Project

Jackson and Josephine County