

February 10, 2026

Chair Hudson, Vice-Chairs Dobson and McIntire, and Members of the House Committee on Education:

On behalf of the **Center for Hope & Safety** we are submitting testimony in support of HB 4149.

Our mission at the Center for Hope & Safety is to provide a safe environment for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and human trafficking and to educate the public about the issues surrounding victimization.

We operate programs that respond directly to the needs identified by survivors of violence and our philosophy reflects the survivors' right to receive information about abuse and their right to make their own choices from a wide range of options.

Last year we had over 10,000 calls to our crisis hotline, and we provided over 17,000 nights of emergency shelter to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and human trafficking in Marion and Polk Counties. We also have a housing program that has a 96% success rate in assisting families into permanent housing.

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act has helped so many children in our emergency domestic violence shelter by ensuring immediate enrollment and appropriate placement, as well as helping children remain in their school of origin when their lives have been impacted by violence at home. The kids that come to our shelter with their safe parent are at high risk for academic disruption, lower graduation rates and long-term educational setbacks. Codifying McKinney-Vento standards in Oregon law will reduce confusion and ensure ongoing services for vulnerable children.

Thank you for this important legislation and for supporting the children in our emergency shelter to have equal access to education; it truly makes a difference as they rebuild their lives free of violence.

Sincerely,



Ashley Carson, Executive Director
Center for Hope & Safety