



February 10th, 2026

Support for HB 4149 – Relating to Homeless Students

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 4149 on behalf of the Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence. OCADSV, founded in 1978, is a coalition of 52 member organizations working together to end and prevent domestic and sexual violence in Oregon. I respectfully encourage you to pass HB 4149.

The majority of Oregon’s community-based domestic and sexual violence programs offer shelter to survivors. From 2023-2024 community-based domestic and sexual violence programs housed 139,502 dependents with their parents in emergency shelter. The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act ensures that those dependents that are school-aged have access to uninterrupted education despite living in emergency shelter. The act ensures 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.

Prior to joining the staff at OCADSV I worked for 7 years at two different community based domestic and sexual violence programs in Oregon, predominately as a shelter advocate. Working with McKinney – Vento coordinators was a large part of my work. McKinney- Vento coordinators were instrumental in providing children in our shelter with uninterrupted access to school including school bus transportation, even when the school of origin was not on the same route as the shelter in which they were living. When safety was a concern, McKinney-Veto coordinators were also necessary to allow for quick safety -transfers so that children could access education in a safer setting within the district

Children entering emergency shelters are experiencing a lot of change very quickly; their day-to-day life has often been flipped on its end. They enter shelter carrying the impact of the trauma of experiencing or witnessing domestic and sexual violence. When academic disruption is added to this, it puts children who access emergency domestic and sexual violence shelters at higher risk for academic disruption, lower graduation rates and long-term educational and emotional development setbacks. The McKinney-Vento requirements provide consistency and connection to school, resources, counselors, and peers. These connections assist children in healing from trauma as well as mitigate academic and developmental risks.

Domestic and sexual violence advocates work with families towards safety and stability. Every day they witness firsthand how the protections in McKenney- Vento support survivors of domestic and sexual violence and their children. OCADSV strongly supports the incorporation of McKinney-Vento protections into Oregon's education code through HB 4149. It will have positive effects for survivors in Oregon.

Thank you for working for Oregon's communities.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hilary Ann Levine'.

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