



House Committee on Education
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

February 9th, 2026

Chair Hudson, Vice-Chairs Dobson and McIntire, and Members of the Committee,

SETA is a non-profit, public service organization dedicated to renters' rights and interests. We provide free community resources, including our free Tenant Hotline, and we directly serve about 240 renter households every month through combinations of several programs.

SETA urges you to join us in support of HB 4149, codifying and strengthening the McKinney-Vento standards for students experiencing homelessness.

The federal McKinney-Vento Act provides critical protections, but these federal standards set a floor, not a ceiling. Not only would the implementation of these standards aligning state law with federal intent, codifying and strengthening these protections in Oregon statute would ensure:

- Clear, uniform implementation across districts.
- Stronger accountability and enforcement.
- Dedicated lifesaving resources and staffing to support eligible students.
- Explicit protections for students living at-risk or literally homeless

From a renter's perspective, this legislation is about recognizing the reality that housing instability is often temporary, involuntary, and economically driven. Many families experiencing homelessness are not chronically unhoused; they are working renters caught in a housing market that has outpaced their incomes. These are caregivers, doing everything they can to support their families but had one medical bill, one major car repair, or one eviction away from losing their homes.

Strengthening McKinney-Vento protections in Oregon law sends a clear message: regardless of housing status, every child deserves stability, dignity, and equal access to education.

We urge you to join us in support of HB 4149.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tim".

Timothy Morris
Executive Director
Springfield Eugene Tenant Association