



City of Coos Bay

Office of the City Manager

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February 13, 2026

Re: HB 4136 – Amendment to Support Child and Family Homelessness Prevention

Chair and Members of the Committee:

My name is Christina Teixeira, and I serve as the Grant Coordinator for the City of Coos Bay. The City is the fiscal agent and lead entity for state homelessness response funding in the Coos County region, including Youth Emergency Housing Assistance (YEHA) and the Oregon Rehousing Initiative.

On behalf of the City of Coos Bay, I respectfully urge the Committee to amend HB 4136 to dedicate a defined and meaningful portion of the revenue generated by this bill toward preventing and addressing child and family homelessness.

Oregon currently ranks first in the nation for unsheltered families with children. During the 2024–25 school year, more than 21,000 Oregon students experienced homelessness. Homeless students face a 56 percent chronic absenteeism rate and graduate at significantly lower rates than their housed peers. These outcomes are not abstract statistics; they are reflected in the daily work of our schools, housing providers, and local governments.

In Coos County, we have built a coordinated infrastructure to respond to housing instability through our Local Planning Group under HB 4123, which established the Service Providers and Regional Connections (SPARC) Network. This collaborative framework connects schools, housing providers, youth-serving organizations, Tribal partners, and local government to ensure services are aligned and resources are deployed efficiently. During Governor Tina Kotek's June 2025 visit to Coos Bay, regional partners highlighted progress made under Executive Order 23-02, including connecting 32 youth and family households to stable housing and expanding shelter capacity for youth through state-supported initiatives. As the fiscal agent for state homelessness initiatives in Coos County, the City manages funds with strict reporting, monitoring, and accountability standards. We work closely with community partners to deploy resources quickly and in compliance with state guidance.

Prevention funding remains one of the most cost-effective interventions available. Modest financial assistance, short-term rental support, and youth-centered stabilization services can prevent a temporary crisis from becoming long-term homelessness. When prevention fails, the human and fiscal costs increase significantly—impacting education systems, healthcare providers, and public safety resources.

HB 4136 presents an opportunity to address housing access and homelessness prevention simultaneously. Directing a portion of the revenue generated under this measure toward child and family homelessness prevention would ensure that Oregon's housing investments not only support homeownership pathways but also stabilize families who are at immediate risk of losing housing.

Importantly, the administrative and reporting infrastructure to deploy these funds already exists. Communities like Coos Bay are prepared to implement additional resources efficiently and transparently. With appropriate allocation, funds could be put to work quickly to prevent youth homelessness, stabilize families, and improve educational outcomes.

We respectfully request consideration of an amendment to include child and family homelessness prevention as an eligible and funded use under HB 4136.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Christina Teixeira
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