



ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES — OF OREGON —

Chair Nathanson, Co-Chairs Reschke and Walters and Members of the Committee,

My name is Keenan Moore, and I am here today on behalf of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon to urge this committee to amend and pass HB 4136.

EMO has long partnered with Representative Hartman, and we applaud her work this session to prioritize housing for those in need over a mortgage subsidy on vacation homes. Over the next decade, this bill will redirect roughly \$100m away from vacation home subsidies to far better uses.

However, with expected devastating cuts to housing programs for the next several years, we do not believe that reserving all funds generated by HB 4136's new, dedicated funding stream should be reserved for just one housing need.

EMO urges this bill to be amended to achieve a reasonable split in the use of funds, with half the funds set aside for homeownership, and half reserved for preventing and addressing family homelessness.

According to the statewide housing report, **Oregon ranks first in the nation for the most families with children who are living without shelter.** The number of children experiencing unsheltered homelessness is 14 times higher than the national average and nearly three times higher than the second-highest state.

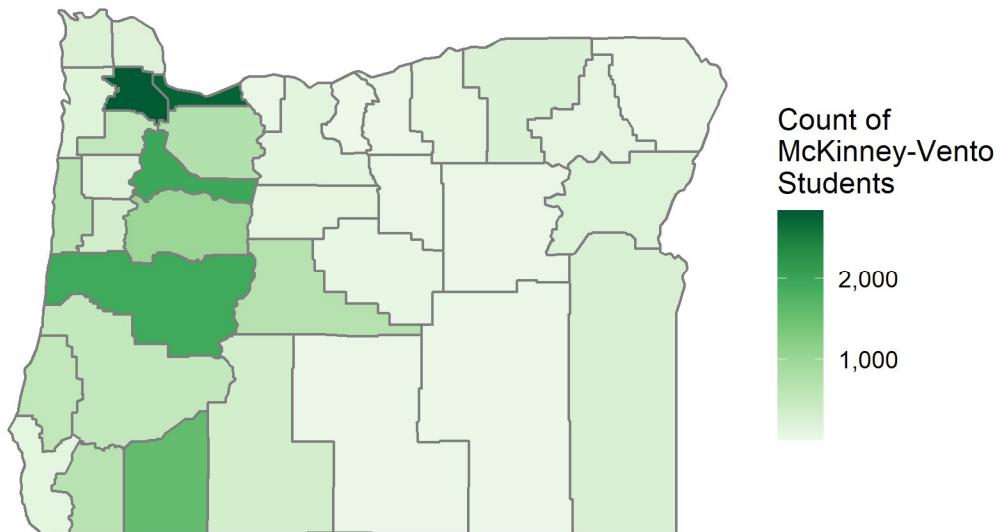
I see the impact of this reality in Clackamas County every day, where during the 2023-24 school year, **723 preK-12 students reported experiencing homelessness, as defined by the McKinney-Vento Act.** In a recent conversation with a local school homelessness liaison, they shared that currently they can only find assistance for about half of the

families who need immediate housing, while the others have no choice but to live in their cars.

For members of this committee who do not live in Clackamas County, I urge you to pull out your phones, scan this code and see how many kids in your districts are battling homelessness. You will see the total number at nearly 20,000 students.

QR Code Link:

<https://www.oregon.gov/ode/schools-and-districts/grants/ESEA/McKinney-Vento/Documents/PK-12%202023-2024%20McKinney-Vento%20Data%20Analysis.xlsx>



Our communities desperately need funding to support both home ownership and homelessness prevention. Thank you for considering this amendment request.

Keenan Moore

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO)