HB4013

February 1, 2022

Good Afternoon, for the record my name is Ann Craig and I'm the Executive Director of Jackson Street Youth Services, we provide services to youth who are experiencing homelessness in Linn and Benton counties.

HB4013 is important for homeless youth in our programs

When compared to urban areas, youth experiences of homelessness in rural counties are more hidden, with greater reliance on couch surfing and sleeping in vehicles or outdoors. They can also be more disconnected from education and employment than those in urban counties. HB 4013 will expand services for homeless youth in rural communities such as Lebanon, Philomath, or Sweet Home.

At the beginning of covid young adults we help house were able to find employment at grocery stores but since then the instability of those jobs due to Omicron has created a precarious position for these young people sometimes biking for uber eats to close the income gap to try to make rent each month. HB4013 will provide homeless youth access to the same housing and college supports as foster youth giving them stability and a chance to thrive.

A family's poor economic situation can lead to family homelessness which may lead to a youth being homeless on their own as they turn older or are separated from their families. In other instances, a lack of financial resources leads to older youth leaving the household to lessen the strain on the rest of the family. HB4013 provides Development of rapid housing, providing eviction prevention and rapid rehousing funds for students and their families currently or at risk of being houseless.

All youth need safety, stability, well-being, positive adult role models, community connections, education, employment, and life skills and programs like Jackson Street provides that. With this bill, youth who have suffered family or housing instability, systems involvement, or extreme disconnection will have a much better chance at overcoming these challenges.

I urge you to pass HB2013. Thank you so much for your time today.