



June 2, 2025

Administrative Office

Looking Glass Programs

Outpatient Services

Counseling Program
Mental Health and Substance Use

Homeless Services

PEER Shelter
Station 7 Shelter
New Roads Drop-In Center
Rural Drop In-Center
Housing Services

Educational & Vocational Services

Riverfront School & Career Center
Center Point School
New Roads School

Residential Services

Regional Crisis Center East
Regional Crisis Center West

Dear Esteemed Members of the House Committee on Rules,

My name is Brittany Means Luna, and I serve as Vice President of Homeless Youth and Alternative Education Services at Looking Glass Community Services in Lane County. I am writing today in strong support of House Bill 3970, which takes the critical step of declaring a state of emergency for youth homelessness in Oregon. This bill not only acknowledges the urgent crisis young people are facing but proposes a path forward through coordinated interagency response, targeted investments, and sustainable funding streams.

In the past year alone, Looking Glass provided 10,150 emergency shelter nights and are near full capacity nearly every night. We served 33,511 meals and distributed 22,034 basic needs supplies to youth and young adults in crisis. Our crisis line fielded 5,187 calls, and we provided 1,907 showers and 881 loads of laundry. Our case managers held more than 3,460 individualized appointments, offering trauma-informed support and stability planning for youth navigating unimaginable challenges.

These are not just numbers, they reflect the lived experiences of hundreds of Oregon youth who, without this support, might otherwise remain unsheltered, unsafe, or invisible in systems not built to serve them. HB 3970 provides the infrastructure Oregon needs to meet this crisis head-on: empowering DHS and OHCS to jointly plan and invest in youth-specific housing solutions, expanding the Emergency Housing Account to include youth-focused grants, and formalizing a long-overdue emergency declaration that recognizes the scope and scale of youth homelessness.

We know that youth who experience homelessness are significantly more likely to experience chronic homelessness as adults unless we intervene early. Investing in youth homelessness services is one of the most effective and cost-efficient strategies we have to prevent long-term homelessness, reduce pressure on emergency systems, and build healthier and more stable communities.



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HB 3970 is not just a policy solution; it is an imperative and strategic investment in Oregon's future. Our youth cannot wait. I urge your support of this critical legislation.

Sincerely,



Brittany Means Luna

Vice President, Homeless Youth & Alternative Education Services

Looking Glass Community Services



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