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February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Dear Representative Isadore and Senator Reynolds

As one of your constituents, I'm grateful that the Legislature is considering HB3079, a vital step toward breaking the cycle of youth homelessness and preventing it from extending into adulthood.

Sadly, homelessness has reached crisis levels across Oregon, affecting families, adults, youth, and children, throughout our communities. As a Board Member of New Avenues for Youth, a nonprofit dedicated to ending youth homelessness, I know that every day young people are moving quickly from housing unstable situations to experiencing literal homelessness. Sometime in a matter of days. Study after study shows, that one of the greatest predictors of chronic, adult homelessness is time spent experiencing homelessness as a youth. I know we can do better for Oregon kids!

Non-profits across our state, through YEP programming, have demonstrated the ability to change young people's trajectory (80-85% success rates), however these services have been woefully underfunded by the state for decades. Right now, non-profits are struggling more than ever and without investment and stabilization more children will be harmed and this problem will continue to exponentially grow.

HB3079 builds on the success of bills passed over the past three years by helping to both support and stabilize current YEH programs and expand services into counties that currently have no options for housing unstable youth. Furthermore, HB3079 begins to develop a long-term allocation strategy that will help stabilize our statewide response and create a foundation for real, systemic change.

PLEASE support this very important bill, and help us get it through the WM Committee and funded for the 2025-2027 biennium.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to the future of Oregon's youth.

Sincerely,

Meggie Finn  
Board Member  
New Avenues for Youth