

Dear Rep. Zach Hudson, Chair, and Members of the House Committee on Education

Re: **HB 4149** – Education of Homeless Students – **Support**

I run the afterschool and summer programs for youth at Family Promise of Tualatin homeless shelter. I see the positive impact of McKinney-Vento policies on the kids I work with. Families don't have the choice of choosing a homeless shelter within their school district. Receiving support through this program provides an important continuity as well as necessary supports to remain in school. A few examples:

- A child who had recently been enrolled in his neighborhood school faced being excluded from school because of not meeting mandatory vaccine timelines. Through this program, he remained in school and we were able to arrange for the necessary vaccinations.
- A family had all of their roots in a somewhat distant community. Being able to remain in her home school made a big difference as the child moved to the shelter and then back to her home community.
- Another family didn't take advantage of staying in the home school. I saw the concern kids had as they faced moving to a new home and a new school at the same time. I wished they had had some continuity as they faced major changes in their lives.

We cannot rely on federal programs at this time. This bill makes sure that youth at most risk receive necessary supports.

Thank you for your good work,

Carol Greenough, Ph.D.