



February 23, 2021

RE: Bill #HB 3026

Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Members of the Committee,

Riverfolk has been a non-profit organization since September 2016. Since that time, we have replaced over 400 foundational documents for the homeless and low-income residence of Clatsop county. We wanted to help these people trigger the resources that they desperately need. Without valid IDs and birth certificates these services were not available. Lacking these documents is the first obstacle preventing people from obtaining employment and housing. \$44.50 is the cost of an ID card and birth certificates in Oregon are \$25. While that doesn't seem like a huge amount of money to some of us, if you are living on the streets or camping in the rough it is an enormous amount of money. This is also a cyclic condition. Without a valid birth certificate, one cannot obtain a valid ID card and without a job one cannot replace the lost birth certificate or ID. Both of these documents are necessary to apply for employment or housing, apply for Social Security benefits, open a bank account, cash a cheque or even to get a Library card.

Recently, I helped a young man replace his lost ID card. He was sleeping outdoors with his \$1200 Stimulus cheque in his pocket. Without proper ID he could not cash the cheque that would have made it possible to sleep indoors out of the rain. With his new ID card he has since gone on to apply for work and is now in housing.

With Sincere Gratitude,

Mary Docherty
President and founder of Riverfolk