

Submitter: kayl bourgault  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Rules  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3970

Dear Members of the Committee,

My name is Kayl Bourgault, and I serve as the Youth Services Coordinator at Station 7 Shelter, a licensed program of Looking Glass Community Services. I am also someone with lived experience of homelessness, addiction, and incarceration. I know firsthand the difference it makes to have access to trauma-informed, youth-specific care—and I know what happens when that care doesn't exist.

I'm writing in strong support of HB 3970, which would declare a state of emergency on youth homelessness and provide urgently needed funding to sustain and strengthen Oregon's youth shelter system.

At Looking Glass, I help support two youth shelters: Station 7 and PEER Shelter. PEER is full or near-capacity every single night. It is the only shelter in our region specifically for transition-age youth. It offers more than just a bed—it provides safety, warmth, harm reduction, and a chance to reconnect with stability. The need is overwhelming. And the stakes are life or death.

As a young person, I survived in part because of people who didn't give up on me. Today, I get to be that person for someone else. But I can't do it alone, and our programs can't survive without sustained investment. If shelters like PEER close, young people will be left with nowhere safe to go—funneled into adult systems that are not built for them, or pushed deeper into crisis and survival.

Please support HB 3970. Our young people deserve better than the streets. They deserve the dignity, care, and resources to build a future.

With deep respect,  
Kayl Bourgault  
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