



Oregon Women's Rights Coalition

HB 3079 Youth Experiencing Homelessness-Support

Chair Hartman, Vice-Chairs Nguyen, Scharf and members of the Committee.

Effort

The Oregon Women's Rights Coalition supports the multi-pronged effort to help our youth who are experiencing homelessness. Over the years we have watched as the program has evolved.

There are many reasons why youth are sometimes unstable and leave their family home. These young people need help as they try to stabilize their lives. This is not a new issue, but we are now more aware of the needs.

At one of my high schools reunion, I was in conversation with a classmate who I had been in school with since the 7th grade. He shared with me that prior to our senior year he got a job and a small apartment on his own because he needed to get away from the violence in his home. He told very few people. He went on with his life becoming a union painter and was enjoying his pension.

If programs like Youth Experiencing Homelessness, he would have had more support as he juggled school and work. He might have chosen a different path as he is very bright and a talented artist.

Please support HB 3079 with as many resources as possible. Our youth are our future.

Marcia Kelley

Public Policy Advocate