

Submitter: Maureen Hinman
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3079

Chair Hartman, Vice Chair Nguyen, Vice Chair Scharf, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Maureen Hinman and I'm the Executive Director of the Oregon School-Based Health Alliance. Our organization works to center and support youth so that we may shatter health and education disparities, honor youth identities and voices, and prioritize their wellness and joy. I am writing in support of HB 3079 so that we can ensure a full continuum of services for Oregon's unaccompanied houseless youth, those who are not in the physical custody of their parents or guardians, and those who are homeless.

Oregon has the 4th highest number of houseless youth in the nation. HB 3079 provides funding support for homeless youth services across Oregon through the Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program, a model with a strong national reputation, for which Oregon is considered a leader. This Program provides youth with long-term housing support as well as a stable home, mentorship, and support system while they attend school. These bills will also dedicate funding to help prevent evictions or rapidly rehouse school-aged youth and families.

Every child and young adult deserves access to safe and stable support services that help them thrive. HB 3079 ensures that is a reality for our young Oregonians experiencing homelessness.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Maureen Hinman