

February 6, 2026
House Bill 4149

Dear Honorable Chair Hudson, Vice Chairs Dobson and McIntire, and Members of the Committee:

We are the Maslow Project Youth Advisory Council in Jackson and Josephine Counties. Our goal is to identify youth-led solutions to fill resource gaps and support our community to better understand how to support youth experiencing homelessness.

As young people with lived experience, many of us are unaccompanied youth striving to navigate life and achieve self-sufficiency. We believe that education should be free from barriers. The McKinney-Vento Act reduces barriers to our one constant source of stability and connection—school. It ensures we can attend school without interruption, regardless of our current living situation, providing immediate enrollment, transportation, school meals, and barrier-free participation in school activities.

Two of our peers have shared that the McKinney-Vento Act was pivotal in enabling them to graduate, secure stable housing, and pursue higher education. Another youth found resilience and friendship through choir, which supported him throughout his schooling. Without the protections of the McKinney-Vento Act, many youths lose hope in maintaining their education, achieving a fulfilling career, and breaking the cycle of generational poverty.

We advocate for this bill because it fortifies essential protections that prevent educational disruption, including:

- Immediate enrollment during crises, even when documentation is unavailable.
- Stability in school placement, allowing youth to maintain connections with teachers, peers, and support services.
- Transportation assistance to ensure realistic school stability.
- A clear dispute resolution process, enabling families and youth to resolve issues swiftly.

To us, this bill is a pragmatic solution that reduces barriers, supports student success, and prevents homelessness from becoming a lifelong educational disadvantage. We earnestly urge your support.

Sincerely,
Ana Garcia, Jaerod Garcia, Newt Maynard, Kristian Maynard, James Richards, Molly Robot, Kalia Kron-Griffith, and Kyle Griffith

Maslow Project Youth Advisory Council





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