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Jim Green

To: House Committee on Judiciary
From: Richard Donovan, Legislative Services Specialist
Re: House Bill 2001-1, sections formerly HB 2454, 2456
Date: February 13, 2023

Chair Dexter, Vice-Chairs Gamba and Helfrich, and members of the committee:

On behalf of OSBA membership, including 197 school districts and 19 Education Service Districts, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of portions of the amendments to House Bill 2001 that pertain to youth experiencing homelessness, which were formerly standalone bills, HB 2454 and HB 2456.

In 2018, OSBA published a new article titled "[Second Home give homeless students stability, second chance to graduate](#)." The article details the challenges that many Oregon students experiencing homelessness face. The article also highlights Second Home, a program designed to help these students find, among other things, to a place to stay at a critical time in their respective lives.

Unfortunately, thousands of students in Oregon continue to experience homelessness today. And these students often come from traditionally underserved subgroups of students, including students of color and students experiencing poverty. School districts often seek to help homeless students. And for many students experiencing homelessness, school is a refuge from the challenges that housing insecurity brings to their everyday lives. However, that refuge only lasts as long as the school day. After school, these young people have no home to go to. For unaccompanied students experiencing homelessness, programs like Second Home are often the difference between graduation from high school and a life on the street.

The portions of amended HB 2001 would support these programs and others, and directly help students experiencing homelessness. Please support these portions of HB 2001.