



February 15, 2023

Chair Dexter, Co-Vice Chair Gamba, Co-Vice Chair Helfrich , and Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Sarah Nedea and I am the Senior Director of Programs at New Avenues for Youth, a non-profit in Portland, OR that serves youth ages 9-26 experiencing homelessness and housing instability. I am writing in support of HB 2001, 2454 and 2456, which maintains a vital commitment to youth experiencing homelessness in Oregon and establishes a critical preventative fund to keep youth and families from becoming unhoused.

Founded in 1997, we have served over 30,000 youth over the years; we served 1,362 youth last year. Our comprehensive, intersecting programs include drop-in services, street outreach, drug and alcohol recovery and mental health supports, workforce development and GED program, case management, emergency housing and shelter, transitional housing and other housing programs, independent living and youth transitioning from foster care support, LGBTQIA2S+ and other culturally-responsive services, and much more.

This legislation is crucial to support youth at critical junctures and in this time of housing emergency that will abate youth, young adult and family long term homelessness.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my experience with you. I hope you will join me in affirming housing as a basic human right for all Oregonians by voting “Yes” on both of these bills.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "SN".

Sarah Nedea
Senior Director of Programs
snedea@newavenues.org