

02/09/2026

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

Re: Support for House Bill 4149

On behalf of Hearts With a Mission and the school district serving Lincoln Co, I write in strong support of HB 4149, which strengthens Oregon's protections for students experiencing homelessness. This bill supports immediate enrollment, school stability, transportation, and clear dispute resolution – practical measures that keep students connected to education during housing crises. We urge your support.

Some statistics from the 24-25 Oregon State Report Card:

- 21,122 Oregon students (3.9% of all K-12 students) experienced homelessness in 2024-25
- Homeless students have a 56.4% chronic absenteeism rate compared to 33.5% for all students
- Only 61.3% of homeless students graduate high school compared to 81.8% of all students

In Lincoln Co, we have utilized HB 4149 (YEHA) funds to prevent family and youth evictions, keep essential utilities from being shut off, and supply emergency food to approximately 15 families/youth during the above mentioned timeframe.

Testimony: One particular family involved a single mother of 4 children. All 5 of them were victims of sexual/physical/emotional abuse by a family member. We were able to relocate the family away from the home where the abuse occurred, removing constant memories and triggers simply by changing their living environment.

Regards,

Brent Dumler

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