



February 4, 2019

Chair Fagan, Vice Chair Girod, Members of the Committee,

I am Brandi Tuck, Executive Director of Portland Homeless Family Solutions (PHFS). Our mission is to empower homeless families with children to get back into housing – and stay there. In addition to helping homeless families get back into housing, PHFS offers a Homeless Prevention Program so families about to be homeless and keep their housing. We also operate emergency shelters for homeless families with children including the Family Winter Shelter on NW 17 & Northrup for 75 kids + parents and the Lents Family Shelter on SE 92 & Foster for 26 families a night.

The Oregon Department of Education reports that In the 2016-17 school year, 4,317 children experienced homelessness in Multnomah County alone. Statewide, more than 22,000 students experienced homelessness in that one school year. This statistic doesn't count their little brothers and sisters, or their parents. In fact, 50% of the kids we serve in our shelters are under the age of five.

These children deserve an opportunity to succeed in school and life, which is tied to having a safe and stable home.

Children who live in rental housing are depending on the Legislature to act to provide basic protections and stability so they have a chance to thrive in school and life. We know we need to address a range of issues to solve the housing problems our communities are facing, and it is critical the Legislature act now to pass SB 608. **Please vote yes on SB 608.**

Thank you so much for your service and for reading this letter. I appreciate your hard work and your commitment to making Oregon a better place.

Sincerely,

Brandi Tuck  
Executive Director  
Portland Homeless Family Solutions