



CITY OF
PORTLAND, OREGON

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

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March 20, 2019

Representative Keny-Guyer, Chair
House Committee on Human Services and Housing
900 Court Street NE, HR 50
Salem, OR 97301

RE: HB 2805

Dear Chair Keny-Guyer and Members of the Committee,

The City of Portland supports HB 2805, which creates the Oregon Youth Aging Out of Foster Care Task Force. Convening a statewide taskforce, including those with lived experience, state agencies, and nonprofit providers, will help identify effective strategies and approaches to support transitional housing for youth aging out of the foster care system.

For children in the foster care system, the quality of the services and supports they receive have a significant and tangible impact on the trajectory of their lives. Individuals with lived experience of the foster care system are likely to experience additional barriers and challenges in adulthood.

Portland and communities across the state continue to experience an unprecedented housing affordability crisis. In this environment, vulnerable families and individuals are at increased risk of experiencing housing instability and homelessness. Youth transitioning out of the foster care system are among these vulnerable individuals that are susceptible to housing instability and homelessness.

The City of Portland supports efforts to address housing insecurity on the spectrum from homelessness to homeownership, including the intersection with foster care, and urges your support of HB 2805. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Eric Noll, Interim State Lobbyist
City of Portland