

From: [Britany Jaramillo](#)
To: [JCSS Exhibits](#)
Cc: [Rep. Smith Warner](#); [Sen. Frederick](#)
Subject: HB 2019
Date: Friday, April 12, 2019 1:53:56 PM

Hello,

I am one of five homeless liaisons for the Portland Public Schools McKinney-Vento Homeless Program. I am writing to submit testimony in support of HB 2019 and ask that you strongly consider including amendments that would help provide more funding for services to homeless youth. In our role, we work with students of all ages facing homelessness from as young as 0 to early 20's. Although all of our students could use more support, those who we identify as unaccompanied homeless youth face even greater challenges as they are alone without the support of a parent or guardian. The housing resources for this specific group are even more limited. More financial support to either and/or both organizations like Harry's Mother and the second home program would open more doors for our unaccompanied youth, not just in terms of housing, but in terms of school stability and graduation as well. Our research has proved over and over again that these youth who experience homelessness are much more at risk of chronic absenteeism, poor grades, and dropping out. Portland Public schools has a strong interest in partnering with a program such as second home but unfortunately funding has been the biggest issue. Yesterday, I met with a high school student that disclosed to me that he felt safer to sleep in his car than to go back home with his parent. This student is not able to get into a youth shelter due to parent needing to be informed and consent to him staying there. He is so fearful of parent knowing his whereabouts that this is not even an option he is willing to consider. It would be amazing if we could create another resource for students in these kind of situations where another healthy adult would be willing to take them in and house them at least until they graduated from high school. Each and every one of our students, housed or not, deserves an opportunity to succeed. Again, I ask you to strongly consider supporting HB 2019 and the many homeless youth in Oregon.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

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To make a referral for a current PPS student:
<http://apps.pps.net/HomelessReferral/Login.aspx>

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