



February 3, 2020

Chair Keny-Guyer, Vice-Chair Noble, Vice-Chair Williams, and Members of the House Human Services and Housing Committee,

Children First works with our 120 partner organizations to develop the Children's Agenda. We identify and elevate legislative concepts that will support the needs of Oregon's children - our children - so that all of our children have opportunities to reach their full potential.

In the 2018-19 school year, there were over 22,000 homeless students in our K-12 schools, including over 3,600 unaccompanied youth - those youth who are on their own, not directly attached to family members. Oregon has the highest rate of youth houselessness in the country, and we hope you agree that we have to do better.

HB 4039 is a step in the right direction. It will provide funding to conduct an assessment of needs and to design an investment plan for a statewide continuum of services for homeless youth and those youth at highest risk of houselessness. HB 4039 also includes immediate investments to expand the host home program and shelter and support services.

We ask for your support for HB 4039.

Sincerely,

Chris Coughlin
Legislative Director

Our Children Oregon

Bringing Together Children First for Oregon and the Children's Trust Fund of Oregon

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