

February 22, 2021

Honorable Members of the House Housing Committee

Re: HB2163

I write in support of this legislation. Youth exiting Foster Care are some of our most vulnerable population. As a mother of two grown sons, I can say personally that an 18-year-old is not ready to face the adult world without help both financially and emotionally. Homelessness becomes a lifelong situation when begun in youth. There is no better way to cut down on our homeless population than in supporting this group of vulnerable citizens. I urge you to push this legislation forward.

Locally in Central Oregon we have some support for this group in our J Bar J organization. They are over taxed with many more needed services than they can provide. I sit on the City of Bend's Affordable Housing Advisory Committee that allocates funds for our area supporters of homelessness. I can assure you there are never enough funds available through CDBG or our own Affordable Housing Fund. The ask is always many times the amount available. I am not writing as a representative of our Committee, but only for myself. I urge you to move this legislation forward and see that it passes.

Sincerely,

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