

Submitter: Simon Fulford

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB2001

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to share Parrott Creek's impassioned support for HB 2001 which brings together elements of HB2454 and HB2456. The identified \$29.5 million in funding for Youth Homeless services is critically needed at this time of housing crisis in our state.

Parrott Creek Child & Family serves approximately 1,000 children and families each year, nearly all of whom have sadly either experienced homelessness or are facing significant housing insecurity. We know first-hand the difference that it can make to the future prospects of vulnerable youth to obtain emergency housing, wrap-around case-management support, culturally responsive services and a gentle guiding hand until they can become self-sufficient and fully independent.

Sadly, too many homeless youth become homeless adults. In fact, experiencing homeless under the age of 18 is one of the most significant predictors of being homeless as an adult. We know how to solve a big part of the adult homeless and houseless crisis: stop them from becoming homeless when they are children and teenagers or, ensuring that when youth do experience homelessness is short and never to be repeated.

These additional state funds will be invaluable to the dedicated and passionate community organizations across the state who are already doing everything they can to help end homelessness for vulnerable youth, and who stand ready to dramatically increase their services to help even more young people succeed in life.

Let's not have our youth today become an even bigger part of our homeless problems of the future.

Thank you.

Simon Fulford
Executive Director