



2/5/26

RE: Support HB 4149

Dear Chair Hudson, Vice Chairs Dobson, McIntire and Members of the House Committee on Education,

On behalf of Boys & Girls Aid, a nonprofit organization serving Washington County and providing shelter and housing services to over 200 youth annually, we respectfully submit this letter in support of HB 4149.

HB 4149 advances a thoughtful and necessary systems-level approach to addressing the educational needs of students experiencing homelessness. By strengthening coordination between school districts, local social service agencies, and state partners, this bill recognizes that housing instability is not simply an education issue, it is a community issue that requires aligned, cross-sector solutions. The bill's emphasis on collaboration with agencies serving runaway and homeless youth reflects a clear understanding that schools must be supported by broader service systems to effectively meet students' needs.

As an agency partnering directly with school districts across Washington County to re-enroll youth who have disengaged from the educational system largely due to housing instability, we recognize firsthand how impactful this partnership is in determining the overall well-being of our community's youth.

We support the bill's requirement that each school district designate a local liaison responsible for identifying and supporting students experiencing homelessness and unaccompanied youth. These provisions help ensure that students are not lost in the gaps between systems and that families and youth have consistent points of contact to assist with enrollment, school placement, and access to services.

We are also encouraged by HB 4149's focus on educational continuity. Preserving a student's connection to their school of origin whenever possible is a proven strategy for supporting academic achievement, emotional well-being, and long-term success.

HB 4149 reflects Oregon's commitment to reducing barriers for vulnerable students through stronger coordination, clearer guidance, and shared responsibility across systems. By improving alignment between education, housing, and youth-serving agencies, this bill helps move Oregon toward a more integrated and responsive framework of support for children and families experiencing homelessness.

Thank you for your leadership and your commitment to Oregon's youth and families.

Sincerely,

Drew Williamson
Senior Director of Shelter and Housing
Boys & Girls Aid