



Honorable Chair Hudson, Vice Chairs Dobson and McIntire, and Members of the Committee

We need you now. We can no longer trust that the Federal McKinney-Vento Act that protects the educational rights of students experiencing homelessness will remain intact with all the changes happening at the Federal level. Oregon needs to protect the rights of their students navigating homelessness by enacting a state version of the M-V Act

15th Night provides technical assistance to McKinney- Vento Liaisons in school districts across Lane County. Last year, we supported 777 students experiencing homelessness with housing navigation, HRSN applications, tuition waivers and expedited access to local resources and services. **We write in strong support of HB 4149.**

Last school year, 21,122 Oregon students experienced homelessness. Oregon just released graduation rate data. Only 61.3% of homeless students graduated high school compared to 81.8% of all students. As budget cuts, dismantle programs, increase class sizes and drastically reduce staffing, it is critical that we protect the educational rights of students navigating homelessness.

We support this bill because it strengthens practical protections that prevent educational disruption, including:

- Immediate enrollment even when youth lack documents during a crisis;
- School placement stability so youth can remain connected to their teachers, peers, and services;
- Transportation supports so school stability is possible in reality; and
- Clear dispute resolution so families and youth can resolve issues quickly.

This is a common-sense bill that will reduce barriers, support student success, and help prevent homelessness from becoming a lifelong educational disadvantage. We urge your support.

Sincerely,

Megan Shultz
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