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Good Morning. My name is Cori Anthony.

I am advocating for continued support of the Student Homelessness Prevention funding from LD 384 and LD 747. As a retired teacher and principal, I know the challenges that face public education first hand. I understand that as a learning institution, it is our primary responsibility to teach students and prepare them to be productive members of society. The reality is that we cannot teach academics to children who are hungry, frightened, and tired. Children feel their parents' stress when they don't know how they will cover rent, utilities, groceries and that unexpected car problem or health problem that surprises them.

I wish we lived in a society where it was not the role of public education to provide for basic needs; but once again it falls to us. We know the students best and we have the relationships built with the families so that they trust us with their personal financial situation. I have the privilege of working with these grants in the Portland Public Schools. I have seen the relief on the faces of the parents and children when we tell them that we can provide a bit of relief. The landlords are incredibly grateful to receive the payment, as they do not want to see families struggling either.

Continued state funding of these pilot grants allow us to empower families, provide financial support, help them secure new housing, AND most importantly, it creates an environment where children are fed, safe, secure and ready to learn.

Thank you for your consideration,
Cori Anthony