



**WA Coalition for Homeless Youth Advocacy**

## **Washington State Homeless Youth Act HB 1436 (Rep. Ruth Kagi) / SB 5404 (Sen. Steve O'Ban)**

**WACHYA has developed the Homeless Youth Act (HYA) to reduce and prevent youth and young adult homelessness in every community in our State.**

Successfully addressing youth homelessness ensures that homeless youth and young adults in our state have the support they need to **thrive** and avoid more costly outcomes in the criminal justice system, human trafficking, long-term dependence on public benefits, or chronic adult homelessness.

### **The Homeless Youth Act will:**

- Create the Office of Homeless Youth Programs (OHYP) to take responsibility for this issue at the state level and coordinate funding, policy, and practice efforts related to homeless youth and young adults
- Establish the goal that youth and young adults are not discharged from systems of care to homelessness
- Lead efforts to identify service gaps and improve data collection so policies and programs are focused on the greatest needs
- Ensure coordination of service delivery so homeless youth in rural areas (i.e. Walla Walla or Yakima) will no longer have to travel to Seattle or Spokane to access the support they need
- Transfer management and oversight guidance of HOPE Centers, Street Youth Services, and Crisis Residential Centers to the OHYP
- Maintain a funding stream for statewide programs that fulfill the federal guidelines for preventing and ending youth and young adult homelessness:

**Stable Housing • Education and Employment • Permanent Connections • Social and Emotional Wellbeing**

*The Washington Coalition for Homeless Youth Advocacy (WACHYA) is a partnership of over 40 organizations dedicated to improving the lives of youth and young adults experiencing homelessness. Together, we speak as one voice to our elected leaders across Washington state, raising awareness for homeless youth issues and urging support for much needed reforms.*

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For questions or comments, please contact:

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Updated 1/20/2015