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District 17



## OREGON STATE SENATE

### Testimony in Support of SB 690, with upcoming amendment Momnibus Housing Supports

Senate Committee on Early Childhood and Behavioral Health  
4/3/25, Public Hearing

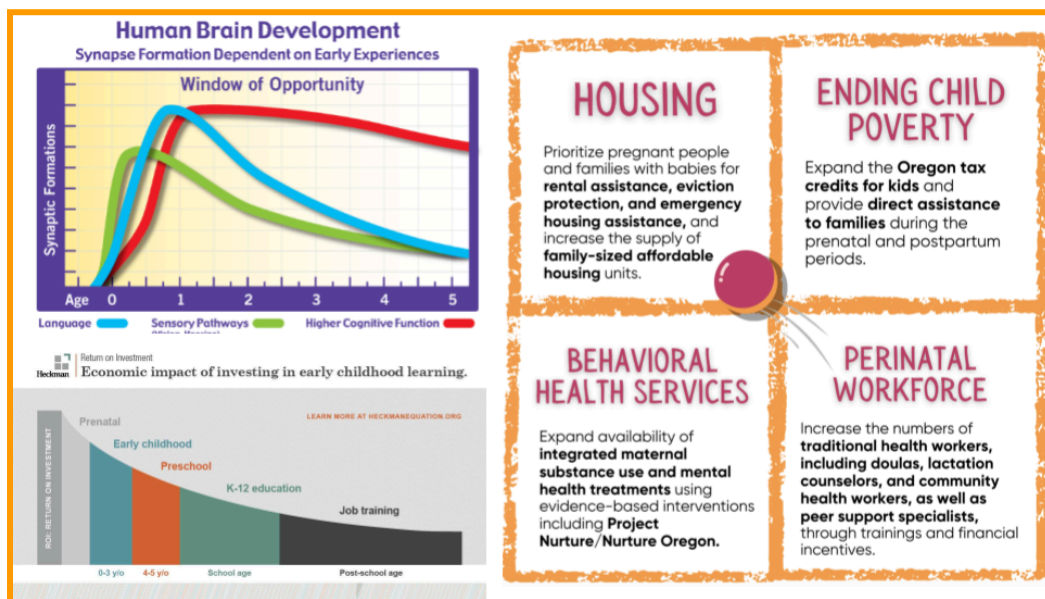
Good afternoon

I think you may know by now that I am a visual learner. I'm also a visual teacher!

I lean into heckman curve, which is a visual representation of the economic principle that the earlier we invest in our families - in pregnancy, in the first year of a baby's life, the higher the return on that investment.

And you have seen me show the illustration that describes the enormous growth in the human brain in the VERY FIRST year of life.

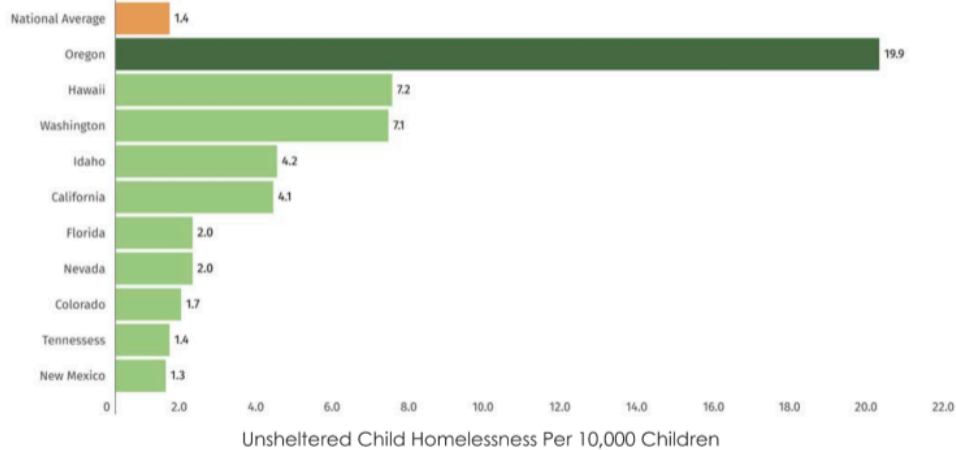
Heck, I've even promoted a graphic representation of the four squares of my Momnibus policy package, representing supports for housing, poverty mitigation, behavioral health, and perinatal health.



Still, the following is the ultimate “a picture is worth a thousand words”

Figure 32

**Oregon ranks worst in the country for unsheltered homelessness among children according to 2023 PIT data**



Source: OHCS Tabulation of Point-in-Time Survey Data, 2007 - 2023

2024 State of the State's Housing

Oregon ranks worse in the country for unsheltered homelessness among children according to 2023 PIT data.

ALMOST 3 times more than the #2 worst in the country and 14 times more than the national average.

This is from our own agency report - the Oregon Housing and Community Services report.

LET ME REPEAT

Oregon Ranks worse in the country for unsheltered homelessness among children according to 2023 PIT data.

ALMOST 3 times more than the #2 worst in the country and 14 times more than the national average.

It's time to do something different.

I will say, that I am choosing to focus on those 0-1 year old. And it's because of that first slide showing rate of return of our investments, and the both great potential and great vulnerability of the first year of a baby's life - by prioritizing that exact population.

And so, we have a housing package with this population front and center.

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A coming gut and stuff amendment for SB 690 will do just this:

## Keeping Babies Housed

**Braid funding** between **6-month HRSN** housing benefit for CCO members and **additional support from ODHS** before handing off to **PHAs**

**Preventing nonpayment evictions for those in process** of applying for/receiving HRSN housing benefits

Allocating **specific resources within the OHCS Oregon Rehousing Initiative** for the target **perinatal population**. This would also help perinatal families be eligible for existing Long-Term Rental Assistance.

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