

March 25, 2025

TO: Committee on Early Childhood and Behavioral Health
FROM: Grace Fortson, Our Children Oregon
SUBJECT: Support for SB 690

Chair Reynolds, Vice-Chair Anderson, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Grace Fortson, I am the Policy and Advocacy Manager with Our Children Oregon (OCO). OCO is a statewide nonprofit committed to whole child wellbeing through the Children's Agenda- a comprehensive legislative agenda created and supported by our over 135 member organizations across the state.

I am here to represent not only my own personal support of Momnibus, but also the support of our entire Children's Agenda coalition who voted to prioritize this bill as a key way to support children and families this legislative session. SB 690 is imperative in our collective work toward a healthier Oregon.

To give some context for the economic reality of Oregon's children, I'd like to look at some state-level numbers. According to the most recent data available for Oregon, 13.8% of children are in poverty, 17.3% of children experience food insecurity, 50.5% of renting families experience rental cost burden¹. This means that a large percentage of children in this state are currently facing one or more forms of insecurity due to economic reasons beyond their control.

¹ <https://ourchildrenoregon.org/publications/oregon-kids-count/>

Ultimately, unstable housing means more than just a move for our children. In Oregon, housing instability is linked to poor physical and mental health outcomes. Additionally, students navigating housing instability have 10% lower rates of attendance. When lower attendance rates combine with high school mobility, we see declining educational outcomes for youth². Oregon already ranks 37th in education in the U.S.³. Ensuring housing stability is not only a moral imperative, it's foundational to supporting Oregon's future. **For all of these reasons, we urge your strong support of making SB 690 a reality.**

Thank you,

Grace Fortson, Policy and Advocacy Manager, Our Children Oregon

View the [2025 Children's Agenda](#)

² <https://www.oregon.gov/ode/StudentSuccess/Documents/SNHIREsearchBrief1.pdf>

³ <https://ourchildrenoregon.org/publications/national-kids-count/>