



Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Bonham, Members of the Rules Committee,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Oregon chapter of the National Organization for Women to express support for SB 690, a bill that would ensure stable housing for pregnant women and families with babies.

Oregon has the regrettable distinction for ranking first in the nation for unsheltered families with children, and the number of Oregon children experiencing homelessness is 14 times the national average. Moms of color are at the highest risk of housing instability, with Black renters in Oregon experiencing eviction rates at twice as high as the state average.

SB 690 protects babies and toddlers by prioritizing pregnant women and families with children up to 12 months of age for rental assistance, emergency housing assistance and protection from eviction. SB 690 also would ensure that the state's push for more affordable housing statewide puts a focus on increasing the supply of family-sized affordable homes.

Being evicted or homeless as a young child can have lasting effects, leading to delays in language and social-emotional development. Research continues to show that what happens to a child between the ages of 0 to 3 can impact a person in the years to come. Insecure housing when very young leaves scars that can impact a child's ability to learn and an adult's ability to get and keep a good-paying job. We need to keep babies and toddlers housed for their own good, and for the good of Oregon, too.

That's why Oregon NOW strongly urges the Oregon Legislature to support SB 690.

Respectfully submitted,

Tamara Miller  
Oregon NOW Legislative Task Force member