



## SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

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### **Babies Have Extra Protection for Stable Housing Under Legislation Passed in the Oregon Senate Today**

*Senate Bill 690 protects the most vulnerable from the trauma of homelessness*

**SALEM, OR** – In a unanimous vote, the Oregon Senate today advanced legislation to help keep infants housed. Crucial brain development happens in the first 12 months of life, and the trauma of homelessness in this time period can have lifelong negative consequences.

“This is not a Democratic issue or a Republican issue,” said **Senator Lisa Reynolds, MD (D – Portland)**. “This is an issue of our shared humanity. In our current housing crisis, we are simply trying to get moms and babies in the lifeboats first.”

Babies are the age group at greatest risk of eviction in the United States, and Oregon has the highest rate of unsheltered homelessness in the nation.

Under Senate Bill 690, a family with a baby 12 months old or younger cannot be evicted for nonpayment of rent if they been approved for rental assistance in Oregon’s Health Related Social Needs program, but they have not yet received the funds to pay overdue rent. The measure also directs the Oregon Housing and Community Services department to prioritize families with babies aged zero to 12 months whenever possible in allocating existing rent assistance.

The measure passed the Senate with 30 yes votes and now moves to the Oregon House of Representatives.

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