



Carla C. Piluso
State Representative, House District 50
900 Court St. NE, H-491, Salem, OR 97301
503-986-1450
rep.carlapiluso@oregonlegislature.gov

March 5, 2019

RE: House Bill 2014

Chair Williamson and members of the committee:

For the record my name is Carla Piluso, and I proudly represent House District 50, the great city of Gresham.

At its core, House Bill 2014 is a protection for survivors. It seeks to right the wrongs of the 2016 Horton Supreme Court decision, which placed an arbitrary, one-size-fits-all cap on non-economic damages. That cap limits juries' authority, and it limits compensation for some of the most vulnerable victims in our justice system.

Economic damages are simple and tangible: compensating victims for lost wages, medical bills, and future medical needs. Non-economic damages, on the other hand, compensate survivors for the dramatic changes to their lives: physical pain, mental suffering, emotional distress or change of lifestyle caused by someone's negligence.

With HB 2014, we acknowledge that both economic and non-economic damages matter to survivors. A senior who is abused or neglected in a nursing home doesn't have lost wages; a child who is sexually abused likely does not have large medical bills. But survivors in both these situations are left with a lifetime's worth of mental anguish, regret and guilt.

As a police officer, I was often the first person to interact with someone how experienced trauma. I have seen firsthand how much impact these experiences can have on someone's life. Victims deserve to have their day in court and have a jury of their peers decide the justice they are due. It is one of our most fundamental constitutional rights as Oregonians and as Americans.

Thank you for your time and attention, and I hope you all will join me in supporting HB 2014.

Sincerely,

Carla C. Piluso
Oregon State Representative, House District 50