



May 3, 2019

Chair Floyd Prozanski and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee
State Capitol
900 Court Street, NE
S-413
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Chairman Prozanski,

The Portland Clinic, LLP, continues to oppose any effort to raise the ceiling for non-economic damages for medical malpractice cases. We believe House Bill 2014 would be harmful to the health care community and actually hinder patient care.

The Portland Clinic is a 98-year-old multi-specialty clinic serving over 90,000 patients in the Portland area. We join a multitude of local hospitals and health care provider groups across Oregon which are opposing this bill.

Eliminating the constitutional limit of \$500,000 on subjective non-economic damage awards in civil injury lawsuits could have devastating consequences to the medical community in a time when we strive for quality driven, cost-effective patient care. Non-economic damages are subjective and unpredictable. They are limited to improve access to medical care and make Oregon attractive to the critical demand for health care professionals. Physicians in high-risk medical specialties could be forced to limit their practices to avoid liability costs.

The current reasonable limit on non-economic damages ensures that patients receive fair compensation without jeopardizing the already strained healthcare system in Oregon by increasing medical costs.

Please consider the implications this bill would have on our patients and the medical community in Oregon.

Sincerely,

Dick Clark,
Chief Executive Officer
The Portland Clinic, LLP
800 SW 13th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97205