



**TO: Rep. Julie Fahey, Chair
Rep. Vikki Breese-Iverson, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Rules**

**FR: Amanda Dalton
Oregon District Attorneys Association**

RE: HB 3632 – SUPPORT

June 20, 2023

Chair Fahey, Vice Chair Breese-Iverson and Members of the Committee:

The Oregon District Attorneys Association offers our support for HB 3632, which would expand the statute of limitations (SOL) for certain sex crimes. The SOL is the amount of time that the State has to initiate a prosecution following the commission of a crime.

Many states, such as Alaska, Delaware, Idaho, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, North Carolina, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wyoming, do not have a SOL for most sex abuse crimes, while many other states have significantly extended the SOL for such conduct. The only crimes in Oregon that are afforded no SOL are crimes of homicide.

Unfortunately, our prosecutors handle sexual assault cases every day, including those with victims who were abused as young children. This experience informs our opinion that often times it takes a great deal of time for a victim to come forward. In many cases, that additional time before disclosure or engagement with law enforcement is due to a variety of barriers including a fear that no one will believe them, shame, embarrassment, threats from the offender, the perpetrator still lives in the home, a fear of damaging their family, they think this only happens to them, they test the waters of disclosure and don't get a welcome response, or they are afraid to go through the process of an intimidating criminal justice system.

All of that to say that when a victim is ready to disclose, we should be ready to seek justice on their behalf.

HB 3632 would empower victims and survivors to make their disclosures of this seriously damaging conduct when they are ready and ensure that abusers are held accountable for the suffering and harm they have caused.

ODAA urges your YES vote on HB 3632.