

REMOVING TIME LIMITS ON SURVIVORS' JUSTICE (HB 3582A)



HB 3582A eliminates the time limits for survivors of child sexual abuse and sexual assault to bring claims in civil courts.

Current Law:

- **Adults** must file sexual assault claims **within 5 years** of discovering the link between abuse and harm.
- **Children** have **until age 40 or 5 years from discovery**—whichever is later. However, the average age a victim comes forward is 52.

HB 3582A:

- Oregon would join **19 other states**, including Arkansas, Louisiana, and New York, and the federal government **in removing these limits** so survivors can **pursue justice on their own timelines**.
- The removal of these limitations will not apply retroactively.

The bill also removes the word “knowingly” from the extended statutes of limitation, aligning with the general negligence standard and closing this loophole.

- Defense attorneys use “knowingly” to argue that a survivor must prove the institution had **actual knowledge** of abuse **against them personally**, regardless of whether they **knew about reports of past abuse or had information indicating abuse**.
- This has led to **inconsistent court rulings**, and in many cases, valid claims have been dismissed—leading to a **higher standard for victims** than in other negligence cases.

From the desk of Rep. Annessa Hartman