



The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

WOMEN'S HEALTH CARE PHYSICIANS

March 26, 2025

To: Chair Jason Kropf
Vice Chair Willy Chotzen
Vice Chair Kim Wallan
Members of the House Committee on Judiciary

From: Julia Barnes, MD, ACOG Oregon Legislative Chair

RE: HB 3582 Eliminates the statute of limitations for civil actions relating to sexual assault and child abuse

Chair Kropf, Vice Chairs Chotzen and Wallan and members of the House Judiciary Committee, My name is Dr. Julia Barnes and I am a physician licensed in Obstetrics and Gynecology. On behalf of myself, my patients and the 700+ practicing ob-gyns of the Oregon Section of ACOG, we would like to express our support of HB 3582 which eliminates the statute of limitations for civil actions based on sexual assault or child abuse.

Sexual assault continues to be a major public health concern. Approximately 1 in 5 women report they have been the victims of a sexual assault in their lifetime. As an obstetrician-gynecologist, I see the short and long term consequences of such trauma including mental health issues, sexually transmitted infections and the risk of unintentional pregnancies. It is important for ob-gyns to assess patients for sexual violence to better help care for them. Patients carry this trauma with them long term. Consequences can include pelvic pain, painful intercourse or sexual dysfunction, greatly impacting a patient's social and emotional connections. It can impact their gynecologic care as pelvic exams, ultrasounds and other procedures can be anxiety inducing and thus patients sometimes avoid them, impacting their physical well being. Alcohol abuse is also more highly associated with victims of sexual assault.

ACOG recognizing the importance of the impact of sexual abuse and its consequences. ACOG Committee Opinion Number 777 gives guidance to the ob-gyn community on caring for women who have been abused. It is our responsibility and duty to care for these women in a compassionate way.

The trauma of sexual abuse is not limited in time. It is carried on throughout a woman's life. We would urge you to support HB 3582 which eliminates the statute of limitations for such abuse.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.