

APRIL DOBSON
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 39
HAPPY VALLEY AND NORTH CLACKAMAS



OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Chair Kropf, Vice-Chairs Wallan and Chotzen, and Members of the Committee,

I write to express my strong support for HB 3582 with the -1 amendment, which would eliminate the statute of limitations for civil actions based on sexual assault and child sexual abuse.

The data are sobering. Over half of Oregon women will experience sexual assault in their lifetime. Our current laws fail to acknowledge the complex realities that survivors face – the trauma, fear, and shame that often delay disclosure for years or even decades.

As legislators, we have a duty protect victims' access to justice. The evidence is that survivors often need time before they're ready to come forward. Some wait until their children are grown. Others until they have economic stability. Many face ongoing safety risks from their abusers.

By removing arbitrary time constraints, we empower survivors to seek justice when they are ready. This bill is about giving control back to those who have had it taken away – a profoundly healing act.

This legislation sends a clear message that sexual violence is a grave violation with enduring consequences. It holds perpetrators accountable and potentially prevents further harm.

I urge your support for HB 3582 and the -1 amendment as a crucial step toward a legal system that truly understands and accommodates the needs of survivors.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "April Dobson".