

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



**HB 3582 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.

## **HB 3582:**

- Oregon would join **11 other states**, including Arkansas, Louisiana, and New York, **in removing these limits** so survivors can **pursue justice on their own timelines**.
- The bill will not apply retroactively.

**The bill's -1 amendment removes the word “knowingly” from the statutes of limitation.**

- **Problem:** 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**.
- 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.
- Oregon and New Jersey are the **only two states to require this higher standard**.