

Submitter: Karynn Fish

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3564

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I'm writing as a concerned Oregonian who believes deeply in the importance of a free and independent press. I urge you to vote no on HB 3564.

At first glance, this bill seems technical—extending the time to request a correction for a defamatory statement and setting rules for how retractions should be handled. But the real impact is much broader and more troubling. HB 3564 would quietly shift Oregon's defamation law in a way that makes it easier to threaten journalists with legal action, especially when they report on controversial or powerful figures.

Doubling the retraction window from 20 to 40 days doesn't meaningfully help people who've been harmed—it just keeps the legal threat alive longer. And the new requirements for how online corrections must be displayed are vague and open to interpretation, inviting lawsuits over formatting and placement rather than substance.

What concerns me most is the chilling effect this bill could have on public-interest reporting. Large media companies may be able to navigate these changes, but small newsrooms and local reporters might choose not to run a tough story at all rather than risk a legal battle.

There's no evidence this bill is needed. But the risk to press freedom, at a time when our newsrooms are already under threat, is real. Please vote no on HB 3564.

Respectfully,

Karynn Fish
Cove Beach