

# NEWSBERG

Community supported news in Newberg.

Subject: HB 3564

Date: May 8, 2025

**Dear Chair Prozanski and Members of the Committee,**

My name is Branden Andersen. I'm the founder and publisher of *Newsberg*, an independent online local news outlet serving the communities of Newberg and Dundee. I'm writing to express concern about House Bill 3564 and to respectfully request that the bill be sent to an interim work group for further review and collaboration.

While I understand and support the intent behind ensuring accountability in journalism, HB 3564, as written, would create new problems instead of solving existing ones. The bill expands the timeline for submitting a correction or retraction request from 20 to 40 days—double the current Oregon standard and far more than what other states require. While this may seem like a small adjustment on paper, it will harm the vital function of public-interest journalism, especially for small, independent, solo-operated newsrooms like mine.

Per industry-wide ethical standards, we already strive to correct errors quickly and transparently when they happen. But stretching the correction window introduces more legal ambiguity and risk, without improving accuracy or trust. In fact, the extended timeline may encourage bad-faith demands aimed at intimidating reporters or stalling critical coverage rather than resolving factual disputes.

HB 3564 also fails to address a major imbalance in how small newsrooms are expected to respond. It gives individuals and their attorneys more time to draft and research demands, but offers no additional time or legal support for small outlets that may need to consult a lawyer, often at significant personal or financial cost, before responding. I'm the sole staff member at *Newsberg*. If I'm offline for even a few days—whether on assignment, vacation, or attending to other duties—my ability to respond within the law's timeframe can be severely compromised.

These concerns aren't hypothetical. They reflect real risks and limitations I face as a local journalist trying to serve my underserved community with integrity. That's why I join others in the journalism community in asking to pause this bill's progress and instead refer it to a work group that includes voices from small and rural newsrooms. We need clear, fair, and balanced laws supporting both accountability and local journalism's sustainability.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

**Branden Andersen**

Founding Editor

[editor@newsberg.org](mailto:editor@newsberg.org)

541-206-4931