

TO: House Committee on Rules
DATE: May 14, 2025
RE: HB 3582 - Support

Chair Bowman, Vice-Chair Drazan, Vice-Chair Pham, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Ben Gurewitz, I am speaking on behalf of Disability Rights Oregon and pleased to offer testimony in strong support of House Bill 3582 and the –3 amendment. Disability Rights Oregon is the State’s Protection and Advocacy System. We are authorized by Congress to protect, advocate, and enforce the rights of People with Disabilities.

Unfortunately, people with disabilities are three times as likely to experience sexual violence. The data is even more staggering for people with Intellectual and Developmental disabilities. Research shows that Up to 90% of people with I/DD may experience sexual abuse at some point in their lives, and 50% may experience 10 or more incidents.¹

HB 3852 makes a meaningful step forward in bringing justice to victims and preventing these horrendous acts from happening in the first place. HB 3582 would eliminate Oregon’s statute of limitations for civil sexual assault and child sexual abuse claims. This would mean that for any abuse that occurs after the bill is signed into law, there will be no time limit for survivors to sue their abusers for monetary damages.

Extending the statute of limitations for victims of sexual abuse would significantly benefit people with disabilities, who often face unique barriers to reporting abuse. Many individuals with disabilities may rely on caregivers, institutions, or systems that can also be sources of abuse, making it more difficult to come forward due to fear of retaliation, communication challenges, or a lack of accessible support.

Additionally, processing trauma and navigating legal systems can take longer for some people with cognitive or psychological disabilities. By allowing more time to seek justice, an extended statute of limitations respects the realities of survivors with disabilities and helps ensure they are not denied accountability or healing simply because they needed more time to act.

We are deeply grateful for Rep. Hartman's leadership in advancing protections for survivors of abuse and neglect. Disability Rights Oregon asks for your strong support of House Bill 3582.

About Disability Rights Oregon

Since 1977 Disability Rights Oregon has been the State's Protection and Advocacy System.² We are authorized by Congress to protect, advocate, and enforce the rights of people with disabilities under the U.S. Constitution and Federal and State laws, investigate abuse and neglect of people with disabilities,

¹ .[\[1\]](#) Valenti-Hein, D. & Schwartz, L. 1995. *The Sexual Abuse Interview for those with Developmental Disabilities*. Santa Barbara, CA: James Stanfield Publishing Company

² See ORS 192.517.

and “pursue administrative, legal, and other appropriate remedies”.³ We are also mandated to “educate policymakers” on matters related to people with disabilities.⁴

If you have any questions regarding DRO’s position on this legislation, please call Ben Gurewitz at 971-806-7908 or email him at bgureiwitz@droregon.org.

³ See 42 U.S.C. § 15041 et seq; 42 U.S.C. § 10801 et seq.

⁴ See 42 U.S. Code § 15043(a)(2)(L).