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TO: House Committee on Rules

FROM: Leslie Wu, Policy Advisor to Attorney General Rayfield, Oregon Department of Justice

DATE: May 14, 2025

SUBJECT: Testimony in Support of HB 3582

The Oregon Department of Justice writes in support of HB 3582 to ensure that the civil justice system is open to survivors, regardless of when they disclose abuse. The elimination of the statute of limitations for sexual abuse and sexual assault cases acknowledges that delay in reporting sexual trauma is normal. Survivors often face barriers to disclosing abuse and violence against them, including safety risks posed by their abuser. Additionally, the proposed amendments clarify that institutional actors that permit abuse should be held to a negligence standard.

As a result of these changes, there could be increased litigation that would require additional capacity at the Department, and an impact to the Department of Administrative Services risk fund in future litigation. We look forward to continued conversations with the legislature to ensure that any impact assessment is accurate.

As societal understanding of sexual assault and trauma has evolved, so too should our legal systems. HB 3582 allows survivors of sexual trauma to have their day in court, and not be closed out of our civil justice system based on an arbitrary time limit.

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