



House Committee on Rules
Support HB 3582
May 15th, 2025

Chair Bowman, Vice-Chairs Drazan and Pham, and members of the committee:

My name is Arielle Hacker and I work at Prevent Child Abuse Oregon (PCA Oregon) a statewide nonprofit dedicated to the primary prevention of child abuse and neglect. We are the Oregon chapter of Prevent Child Abuse America - the oldest and largest national organization dedicated to child abuse and neglect prevention. I respectfully submit this testimony in strong support of HB 3582, which seeks to eliminate the statute of limitations for civil actions based on sexual assault and child sexual abuse.

Oregon's current statute of limitations imposes arbitrary and harmful time constraints that do not reflect what we know about trauma, particularly sexual trauma. Extensive research shows that survivors of abuse often face profound psychological, emotional, and safety-related barriers that delay disclosure—sometimes for years or even decades. Fear, shame, coercion, threats from perpetrators, and the risk of retraumatization are all well-documented reasons survivors may not come forward until much later in life.

By maintaining rigid time limits on when survivors can seek civil remedies, our current laws ignore these realities. They prevent many Oregonians who have experienced sexual trauma from ever having their day in court—and in doing so, deny them both justice and healing.

HB 3582 represents a critical step toward aligning Oregon's legal system with the lived experience of survivors and the scientific understanding of trauma. Eliminating the statute of limitations would send a clear message: Oregon acknowledges the complexity of abuse, believes survivors, and is committed to creating pathways to justice on their terms.

This legislation is also a powerful tool for accountability and prevention. Research indicates that many perpetrators of abuse—especially in cases of child sexual abuse—continue to harm multiple victims over time if there is not effective action taken to stop their behavior. Without mechanisms for survivors to come forward when they are ready, we risk allowing abuse to continue unchecked. Removing the statute of limitations not only empowers survivors but also strengthens our collective ability to protect Oregonians.

Many states across the country have already taken this important step.¹ It is time for Oregon to join them and affirm that justice should not have an expiration date.

On behalf of PCA Oregon, I respectfully urge you to pass HB 3582 and stand firmly with survivors of sexual assault and child sexual abuse.

Thank you for your time, your leadership, and your commitment to building a safer, more just Oregon.

Sincerely,

Arielle Hacker

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¹ <https://childusa.org/2024sol/>