



*The League of Women Voters of Oregon, established in 1920, is a grassroots nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. We envision informed Oregonians participating in a fully accessible, responsive, and transparent government to achieve the common good. LWVOR Legislative Action is based on advocacy positions formed through studies and member consensus. The League never supports or opposes any candidate or political party.*

June 10, 2025

To: [Senator Kayse Jama](#), Chair, [Senator Daniel Bonham](#), Vice Chair, and Members of the  
[Senate Committee on Rules](#)

Re: [HB 3582 A](#) – Statute of limitations for sexual assault claims – **Support**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon strongly supports HB 3582 A based on our support of laws that promote social and economic justice and the health and safety of all Americans. We also acknowledge the mental health aspect to the bill, since seeking justice through the legal system is part of the healing process for many sexual assault victims. The League believes our mental health delivery system should include services that focus on recovery of the individual through use of evidence-based crisis intervention and ongoing support. HB 3582 A is a long-awaited step forward for those who have experienced years of suffering on their mental health journey. We applaud the sponsors of the bill and the many individuals and organizations who have worked to bring this issue before the Legislature.

Statistics on sexual assault in Oregon reveal a sobering truth. The [Count Her In Report](#) by the Women's Foundation of Oregon states that "An extrapolation of Oregon survey data from the Centers for Disease Control indicates that perpetrators have sexually assaulted over 1 million women and girls in Oregon—more than half of the state's female population." This percentage, one of the three highest in the nation, is not only alarming but completely unacceptable, given the devastating and rippling effects that sexual violence has on mental and physical health, economic potential, and ability to thrive in our society.

One of the most insidious facts about sexual violence is that perpetrators are most often well known to the victim. Victims carry shame and the fear of not being believed or of being judged harshly if they come forward, so it may take many years before victims are ready to report sexual assault or abuse, especially if it occurred during childhood or the teen years. When victims finally are ready, the legal system generally does not serve them well. We cite the National Library of Medicine [article](#) "Silenced Survivors: A Systematic Review of the Barriers to Reporting, Investigating, Prosecuting, and Sentencing of Adult Female Rape and Sexual Assault" that highlights the difficulties faced by victims as they try to seek justice. Thus, the elimination of the civil statutes of limitations, as well as the removal of the word "knowingly" from Section 2 of ORS 12.118, is crucial if we, as a society, are to make progress on destigmatizing the act of coming forward and achieving justice for the victims of sexual assault. We urge your support for HB 3582 A and thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Bentson".

Lisa Bentson  
President LWVOR

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marge Easley".

Marge Easley  
Social Policy