



PRESS RELEASE

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For More Information, Contact:
Scott Moore (503) 986-1904
scott.moore@state.or.us

House Votes to Improve Justice for Grieving Families

HB 4136 lifts the cap on wrongful death cases for the first time in 29 years

Today, the Oregon House voted to update the cap on non-economic damages in wrongful death claims for the first time in nearly 30 years.

House Bill 4136, which passed 33-26, will lift the cap on wrongful death cases from \$500,000--set in 1987--to \$1.5 million. It would give grieving families access to a more just compensation.

During the floor debate, House Democrats shared stories of grieving families who faced this cap while seeking compensation for the loss of their loved ones. Members also shared painful stories of loss in their own families.

"This bill is about ensuring that when a loved one is taken from us due to neglect, malfeasance, or other wrongdoing, grieving families have a greater ability to seek the compensation they are owed," says Rep. Joe Gallegos (D-Hillsboro), who co-carried the bill on the floor.

"We can't turn back the clock, and we can't undo the tragedies that have taken place," adds Rep. Gallegos. "But going forward, we can make sure that families have better access to the justice they're entitled to."

The bill was also carried on the floor by Rep. Paul Holvey (D-Eugene).

"The men and women who serve on juries hear all of the facts in a case and make a judgment about what a grieving family should receive for their loss," says Rep. Holvey. "But right now, that compensation is blocked by a 30-year-old cap. This bill will allow families to seek a more just compensation."

HB 4136 now goes to the Senate for consideration.

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