



*Offices of Representative Annessa Hartman, Representative Ben Bowman,  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Oregon House Unanimously Passes Landmark Bill to Eliminate Civil Statutes of Limitations for Sexual Assault Survivors**

**SALEM, Ore.**— Today, the Oregon House passed [HB 3582A](#), a bill that removes the civil statute of limitations for sexual abuse claims filed after the bill's effective date and addresses a critical technical barrier to justice for survivors. The legislation ensures that survivors will no longer be barred from seeking justice simply because their healing took time.

**Rep. Annessa Hartman (D—Oregon City & Gladstone)**, a survivor and leading advocate for victims' rights, championed the bill to ensure survivors can seek justice on their own timeline, not one dictated by outdated statutes.

“For far too long, survivors have been silenced by arbitrary deadlines that ignore the complex reality of trauma,” said **Rep. Hartman**. “Today, we’ve said loud and clear: we believe you, we support you, and we refuse to let time be your abuser’s greatest ally.”

Under current law, adult survivors have just five years from the time they discover the connection between the assault and their injuries to file a civil suit. For child survivors, the limit is five years from discovery or until they turn 40—whichever is later. But trauma experts and survivor advocates point out that the average age at which a child sexual abuse survivor comes forward is 52.

“I struggled to maintain my composure in the Rules Committee listening to the testimony from survivors on this bill,” said **House Majority Leader Ben Bowman (D—Tigard)**. “Their testimony was an act of courage, and an act of faith. It takes tremendous courage to relive one of the worst and most traumatic moments of your life in a public setting. And it takes faith to believe that telling your story might actually make a difference for other people. I want to sincerely thank them for making today possible.”

HB 3582A eliminates these deadlines going forward, allowing survivors to file when they are ready. The bill also closes a legal loophole by removing the word “knowingly” from the extended statutes of limitations, which currently requires survivors to prove that an institution was aware of specific abuse against specific victims—a burden not placed on any other negligence plaintiff.

“As a legislator, attorney, mother, and woman, I’ve seen how our legal system fails survivors,” said **Rep. Emerson Levy (D—Central Oregon)**. “This bill starts to change that, and brings the law closer to where people actually are in their healing.”

With HB 3582A, Oregon would join 19 other states and the federal government in removing civil time limits for child sexual abuse. The legislation also contains an emergency clause to immediately allow survivors, particularly victims of [notorious abusers like Dr. Farley](#), to seek justice without additional delay.

The bill now heads to the Senate for consideration.

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