

CADDY HANEN MCKEOWN
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
HOUSE DISTRICT 9



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
900 COURT ST NE
SALEM, OR 97301

March 26, 2019

Chief Clerk Tim Sekerak
Oregon State House of Representatives

Re: HB 2014, Vote Explanation

Dear Chief Clerk Sekerak,

I voted against HB 2014 in its current form because I believe it falls short of thoughtfully balancing the need to ensure that victims of intentional acts are provided an adequate award within the judicial system with the needs of rural Oregonians and their ability to access health care practitioners.

Removing the cap jeopardizes an already strained health care system in rural Oregon. Higher medical liability insurance costs have a greater impact to those practitioners in rural settings, which negatively impacts the availability and affordability of health care services in my district. The legislature understands this issue, as it has created and funded the Rural Medical Practitioners Insurance Subsidy Program to help subsidize the cost of liability insurance for physicians, nurse practitioners and others that provide care to our rural constituents.

My colleagues in support of HB 2014 want to ensure that victims of crimes of sexual abuse and discrimination are fairly-recompensed for their ongoing recovery. I agree with them and hope that an amendment to exempt cases of intentional criminal conduct from the cap will be considered as the bill moves through the legislative process. I hope that the Senate will look to strike this much-needed balanced approach on an issue this important.

Sincerely,

Caddy McKeown
State Representative
House District 9

