



DISABILITY RIGHTS OREGON

May 16, 2013

TO: Senator Floyd Prozanski, Chair
Senate Judiciary Committee
FR: Bob Joondeph, Executive Director
Re: HB 2536A: Transfer of Structured Settlements

Disability Rights Oregon supports HB 2536A.

As the Protection and Advocacy Program for Oregonians with disabilities, DRO frequently receives complaints of exploitation of people with intellectual, psychiatric and cognitive disabilities. These individuals can be easy prey for those who offer quick riches or deals that would seem to be good to be true to most of us.

It is this vulnerability that HB 2536A recognizes and offers reasonable protections to address. We have been made aware of cases in which a payee sold their structured settlement (which was designed to provide monthly financial support for a lasting severe injury) at a deep discount.

Despite the clear disadvantage that sales of this kind offer a payee, a judge does not have adequate statutory direction to deny a petition for such a transfer that should be denied.

HB 2536A clarifies provides clear guidelines and factors for a judge to consider before granting or denying a petition for the transfer and assures that a judge will have the financial information needed to protect vulnerable payees.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony.