



## Oregon District Attorneys Association, Inc.

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To: Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee

From: Paul Frasier, President, Oregon District Attorneys Association

Date: February 23, 2013

### Memo Supporting HB 4143 A

The Oregon District Attorneys Association supports **HB 4143 A** for two basic reasons:

**1. Wrongdoers who have had a class action judgment entered against them in a court of law should have to pay the judgment against them.** Simply because members of the class action suit do not, for whatever reason, claim their portion of the judgment is not a reason to let the wrongdoer keep the money. As prosecutors we are constantly working to hold criminal offenders accountable for their illegal actions. Holding wrongdoers accountable in our civil justice system for their illegal actions is just as important. Letting these civil offenders keep any portion of the money judgment issued against them reduces the accountability factor in our civil justice system.

### **2. Oregon Legal Aid helps financially distressed crime victims and Legal Aid needs funding**

Every day, all across Oregon, district attorneys and their staffs work with domestic violence victims to hold the perpetrator criminally accountable and to protect these victims from further violence. Legal Aid plays a significant role in helping these same victims by assisting in the restraining order and stalking order process as well as other civil processes that occur both before domestic violence is so bad it reaches the criminal courts and thereafter. As you know, **HB 4143 A** would set up the equivalent of a trust fund with the interest going to the Oregon State Bar exclusively to help fund Legal Aid.

**HB 4143 A** holds civil wrongdoers accountable and helps financially support Legal Aid. We urge your support.