



February 2, 2016

TO: Representative Shemia Fagan, Chair  
House Committee on Consumer Protection and Government  
Effectiveness  
FR: Bob Joondeph, Executive Director  
RE: HB 4136

Disability Rights Oregon (DRO) is Oregon's federally-funded *Protection and Advocacy* office that provides legal-based advocacy services to Oregonians with disabilities.

Disability can arise at birth, during youth or in adulthood. It can result from biological development, disease or trauma. The extent of a disability varies widely but limitations of life activities often require greater expenses in health care, accommodations and assistance with activities of daily living. A person's ability to work, travel and recreate can be significantly affected. When these limitations arise, the ripple effect on family members can cause similar effects: limits on working, travel, recreation and the physical and psychological impact of adjusting to a loved one's greater dependence.

If a person is injured due to the wrongful behavior of another, that person should be entitled to compensation that recognizes the full impact of that injury. This not only achieves individual justice but it preserves public assistance that might otherwise be accessed to pay for the effects of the injury.

For these reasons, Disability Rights Oregon supports passage of HB 4136.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this important legislation.