

From the Office of
State Representative
Bill Kenemer

AOI COMMENTS ON *Bill Kenemer*
HOUSE BILL 4136



Associated Oregon Industries

1149 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301-4030
telephone: 503.588.0050
portland: 503.227.5636
statewide: 800.452.7862
fax: 503.588.0052
www.aoi.org

February 9, 2016

Vote No on HB 4136

AOI urges your opposition to HB 4136, which raises the cap on noneconomic damages in wrongful death cases from \$500,000 to \$1.5 million.

Oregon's approach to damages in wrongful death cases is balanced, fair, and relatively stable. The state allows for unlimited recovery of economic damages, and places a reasonable cap on noneconomic "pain and suffering" damages. This cap provides stability to businesses seeking to locate in Oregon.

A higher cap on noneconomic damages makes plaintiffs not only more likely to sue, but also less likely to settle those lawsuits. This reluctance to settle may not lead to greater recovery for the families of victims, but it undoubtedly leads to increased legal fees paid to attorneys on both sides.

Oregon's system of allowing unlimited economic damages plus reasonably capped noneconomic damages is fair to victims' families, and good for business.

Please Vote No on HB 4136