



Senator Prozanski and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to submit testimony. I am the Executive Director of OPSO, the Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons of Oregon, which is a group comprised of over 1,500 osteopathic physicians, residents, and medical students in Oregon who are all dedicated to providing top-level, comprehensive care to Oregon's patients.

OPSO urges your no vote on SB 487. Doubling the cap on noneconomic damages is unnecessary. It will increase medical liability insurance rates, and will ultimately decrease patient access to care.

I'd like to remind the committee that there are no limits on recovering economic damages. Economic damages are fair and predictable, while noneconomic damages are punitive. Noneconomic damage caps exist to ensure that patients and their families are fairly compensated while preserving access to health care.

Many other western states have capped noneconomic damages at \$500,000 or less. California, for instance, has a \$250,000 cap. States with greater noneconomic damages caps have higher medical malpractice premiums. The patients, unfortunately, are the ones who feel the burden of this cost. Additionally, it has been shown that raising malpractice insurance costs is directly correlated with a decrease in rural provider access. Doubling the cap on noneconomic damages is bad for patients.

Please protect patient access and oppose SB 487.

Regards,

David Walls
Executive Director
Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons of Oregon (OPSO)