



May 24, 2017

TO: Senator Floyd Prozanski, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary
FR: Bob Joondeph, Executive Director
RE: Support for HB 2807

Disability Rights Oregon (DRO) is Oregon's nonprofit *Protection and Advocacy* office that provides legal-based advocacy to Oregonians with disabilities. DRO is a member of the Restore Justice for Survivors coalition. I am here today in support of House Bill 2807.

Disabilities can arise at birth, during youth or in adulthood. They can be the result of many different variables including biological development, disease or trauma. People with disabilities have varying degrees of social, economic, professional and daily life hurdles to overcome at every turn. Hurdles like the cost of their medical care, accommodations needed in their home and workplace, transportation to school, work or just to run errands, additional homecare to get up and moving in the morning-like getting out of bed, taking a shower, brushing one's teeth, putting on clothes, making breakfast---all things many of us take for granted and can accomplish in 15 minutes if necessary.

When a person is injured and perhaps permanently disabled due to the wrongful, negligent conduct of another, it is imperative our jury system is intact to provide case-by-case justice. Our justice system must protect our most vulnerable and value them as important participants in our society.

For those who have undergone traumatic, life changing injury due to the negligence of another, this bill gives the power back to juries to hear the facts of the case and decide what is just on a case-by-case basis. An arbitrary, one-size fits-all limit minimizes the importance we place on the physical pain, mental suffering, emotional distress and change of lifestyle inflicted on survivors.

I urge you to support HB 2807