



HB 2014 - noneconomic damages

Chair Floyd Prozanski and member of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

This bill removes \$500,000 cap on noneconomic damages for actions arising out of bodily injury, but retains the \$500,000 cap on actions for damages arising out of wrongful death.

For years, if not decades, we have worked towards Tort Reform. This is a step backwards and will add to the rising cost of medical insurance adding to doctor and hospital costs for their insurance.

We all know about the McDonald's hot coffee case where the jury awarded \$2.86million. This is what happens when there is no limit to the amount juries can award for economic damages in lawsuits.

The 2016 Oregon Supreme Court ruling that established a \$500,000 cap on noneconomic damages was based on Article 1, Section 10 of the Oregon Constitution, and limited recovery on all noneconomic damages to \$500,000. See Horton v OHSU, 359 Or 168 (2016).

This bill goes against the Supreme Court decision and allows victims to recover the damages a jury determines are owed without a cap. It allows a jury to discriminate on the value of life between peoples. Further there is a general perception that insurance companies are loaded and there isn't a connection of how damages awarded will roll down and affect all of us.

Retain the sanity and vote NO.

Donna Bleiler

