**Testimony Before the
Senate Committee on Judiciary regarding HB 2014
Presented by Victoria Orfaly
on behalf of the Oregon Medical Association
May 6, 2019**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in opposition to HB 2014. My name is Victoria Orfaly and I am a 1st year medical student at OHSU.

Before coming to OHSU, I had the opportunity to study public health in my undergrad and learn about the variety of social determinants of health that affect patient access to care and consequently their health outcomes. I have appreciated OHSU's dedication to continuing my education on this subject as I realize more and more how critical access to a wide variety of services and specialties are for obtaining the best health outcomes. Access to care is a topic I am passionate about and want to be cognizant of as I make choices about my future career. However, while I have not yet committed myself to a specialty or practice setting yet, I have found that the "real world" conversations of how I will pay back my loans after 10 plus years of schooling have begun to weigh heavy on my mind. I fear for both myself and my peers that our passions to provide care for underserved populations in Oregon will be overshadowed by the fear of paying back our debt. I believe that patients should be able to obtain recovery for damages, however, this consideration should not override the importance of patient access. Removing the cap on non-economic damages would produce greater unpredictability, which leads to greater instability in running a medical practice.

I grew up in Oregon and am excited to have the opportunity to train here and one day provide care for Oregonians from any corner of the state—I just hope that when the time comes, I will be able to afford to do so.

**The Oregon Medical Association serves and supports over 8,000 physicians, physician assistants and student members in their efforts to improve the health of all Oregonians. Additional information can be found at
www.theOMA.org.**