

Senators,

This letter comes to you on behalf of the members of Survivor Caucus to urge you to vote yes on House Bill 2014. Survivor Caucus is a bipartisan, bicameral, and anonymous caucus of Capitol staff who are survivors of sexual assault. Each one of our members has been affected in varying ways by sexual violence. Some of our members have also navigated the justice system to seek repercussions for their abusers, whether they be criminal or civil.

House Bill 2014 is a victory for any survivor seeking justice outside of the criminal system. As you are aware, many survivors, and especially survivors of sexual assault, do not seek criminal justice for fear of backlash, victim blaming, slut shaming, and adverse effects to their career. For those survivors that do seek criminal justice, many of their cases are pushed aside with claims such as, "there's not enough evidence" or "we don't see this holding up in court." House Bill 2014 gives survivors a viable option, outside the criminal justice system, to seek financial damages from their abusers in civil court where the burden of proof is lower and justice is much more attainable. No survivor can put a price to the abuse they've endured, but surely the Legislature can agree that our lifelong trauma is worth more than what we can currently be awarded in civil court. We owe it to our fellow Oregonians to lift the cap on damages.

Survivor Caucus urges you to vote yes on House Bill 2014. Your vote has the power to tell those silenced by their assault that you see us, you hear us, and you are advocating for change. This is a win for survivors across Oregon whose voices are often lost within our justice system.

Thank you,

Laura Hanson, Chelsea Sullivent, and Amy Vaught
On behalf of the Oregon State Capitol's Survivor Caucus

Office of Senator Fagan