

Thank you Senator Prozanski and Members of the Judiciary Committee for bringing this legislation up for a hearing today.

I'm grateful to Senator James Manning for sponsoring SB233 with the goal of passage in this 2025 session. I am particularly honored to have this opportunity to be part of helping other Oregonians to have our rights to seek medical claims in parity with other negligence SOUR laws.

I had bad hernia mesh removed in 2018 and began having prolonged severe pain. My PCP dismissed my complaints, saying it should be expected and I had to live with it. Because I depended on him, his lack of responsible care has cost me dearly.

Throughout COVID, my wife and I cared for my aging Mom in our home until her passing and, together, kept our nonprofit organization managed. I often ignored my own wellbeing until my spiking high blood pressure had me in the Emergency Room. The ER doctor encouraged me to visit the surgeon who removed the mesh saying, "she would likely have a piece for my puzzle." I am grateful I was pointed in the direction of the truth.

During several visits with the surgeon, she injected me with cortisone, suggesting it would help. She later acknowledged, after reviewing her records, she found she had incorrectly used sutures that would not dissolve and were caught in a bundle of nerves. She urged immediate removal of the sutures. Surgery was scheduled, and the sutures were removed but the nerves were badly damaged and my pain persists.

After years of struggling to manage my pain and sleeplessness, I am worn and feel hobbled, unable to fulfill my work responsibilities for our nonprofit. This impact has been significant and costly to our organization.

Survivors of medical injury live with trauma, and the current five year SOUR is too short to recognize, process, and seek professional medical and legal advice. I learned the details of the medical negligence just over five years after the surgery. SB233 offers a measure of hope to Oregonians who desperately need the time required to adequately prepare and make our claims for recovery from negligence that may not be known for years.

SB233 is truly bi-partisan and a worthy opportunity to make common cause to bring renewed hope to all Oregonians, rural and urban, regardless of cultural, economic, political, or social status. This will not require costs to our State, nor will it take away funding from another deserving line item. SB233 will protect and promote the productivity and future well-being of individuals who might otherwise become a tax burden on the State.

As a person of faith and belief in justice, my heart tells me this is the right cause to support because it only does good and is balanced and fair. On behalf of many other Oregonians, I want to thank each of you, in advance, for your vote of support of SB233.