



Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

The groups listed above write to express respectful opposition to SB 233, which we are concerned will drastically increase costs of medical malpractice insurance at a time when the healthcare system is struggling under increased costs to provide care and stagnant reimbursement rates.

Healthcare employers in Oregon routinely share that it is difficult to recruit new providers to this state, and SB 233 will only exacerbate this problem. The American Medical Association reported that Oregon's medical malpractice rates rose by 26.7% in 2022. While much of this surge was likely related to the pandemic, it is critical to state that many practices have not recovered from COVID-19, and additional costs for medical malpractice insurance, which have already increased significantly in recent years, are a concern.

The Statute of Ultimate Repose (SOUR) is five years for medical malpractice in Oregon, which means no suit can be filed more than five years after the injury actually occurred. We feel that five years provides for sufficient time for most issues or injury to be discovered and addressed in most cases. Doubling the Statute of Ultimate Response to 10 years from the potential date of the injury is extremely long, and increases the risk for liability beyond what is appropriate.

Thank you for your consideration.

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