



Representative Hòa Nguyễn  
Oregon House District 48

HB 3582 - Statutes of Limitation

5/14 House Committee on Rules

Chair Bowman, Vice-Chairs Pham and Drazan, and members of the Committee:

I am State Representative Hòa Nguyễn, and I proudly represent House District 48, which includes outer Southeast Portland and North Clackamas County, two of the fastest growing areas in Oregon.

I'm the eldest daughter of four, born to Vietnamese refugee parents. I've spent the last two decades working in education as a school board member and currently as a Student and Community Engagement Specialist at the Clackamas Education Service District.

I submit this today not just as a legislator, but as a survivor of sexual assault. It happened in 2005 when I was a student at Portland State University. It has taken me years to name it, understand it, and reclaim power from it. That journey has been long, deeply personal, and shaped by systems that too often silence survivors.

That is why I rise today in strong support of House Bill 3582 and the critical improvements made in the -3 amendment.

The trauma of child sexual abuse and sexual assault does not expire, and neither should a survivor's right to seek justice. Under current law, Oregon imposes a statute of limitations that often runs out before a survivor is ready, or even able, to come forward. Research tells us that survivors of childhood sexual abuse take an average of 20 years or more to disclose what happened to them. Shame, fear of not being believed, and the psychological impact of trauma create powerful barriers to reporting and legal action.

HB 3582 addresses this reality by removing the statute of limitations for civil claims based on child sexual abuse and sexual assault. The -3 amendment goes further by recognizing that institutions and individuals that allowed, permitted, or encouraged abuse, even if they did not act with "actual knowledge", should be held accountable. Survivors should not have to prove that someone knew exactly what was happening in order to pursue justice.

This is not just about individual healing. It's about institutional accountability. When schools, churches, youth programs, or other organizations fail to act on red flags, or worse, cover them up, survivors deserve recourse. The -3 amendment ensures that

survivors can bring claims even if the conduct occurred in the past, so long as no final judgment has been entered.

Let me be clear: this bill does not create new victims, it gives voice to those who've long been silenced.

We know from Oregon case law, such as Whipple v. Howser, that retroactive changes to civil statutes of limitations are constitutional when there is clear legislative intent. That intent is what we affirm today.

HB 3582 is about truth, accountability, and healing. As both a lawmaker and a survivor, I urge you to pass this bill, not just for those who are ready now, but for those still finding the courage to speak.

Thank you for your time, and for centering survivors in this conversation.

In community,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hòa Nguyễn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Hòa" and the last name "Nguyễn" clearly distinguishable.

Rep. Hòa Nguyễn