

February 16, 2016



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Oregon Progressive Party Position on Bill at 2016 Session of Oregon Legislature:

HB 4136: Support

Dear Committee:

The Oregon Progressive Party (OPP) supports HB 4136, which increases to \$1.5 million the current \$500,000 limit on noneconomic damages recoverable in wrongful death actions and other statutorily created causes of action.

Monetary awards to injured plaintiffs should be up to juries. Imposing limits ultimately results in injured plaintiffs placing greater reliance upon public programs. Further, economic theory teaches that efficiency requires that the cost of deaths and injuries resulting from business activities internalized as fully as possible. Artificial limits on recovery impede economic efficiency.

The existing cap has not changed since 1987, although the cost of living has increased by 109% (more than double).

Please include this statement in the legislative record for this bill.

Thank you.

Oregon Progressive Party

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