

# **OREGON TRIAL LAWYERS ASSOCIATION**

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Testimony of Arthur Towers  
In Support of SB 261  
Before the  
House Committee on Judiciary  
May 15, 2017

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. The members of the Oregon Trial Lawyers Association strongly support SB 261. Our members fight for the rights of sexual assault victims in the civil justice system. Senate Bill 261 would extend rights that victims have in the criminal justice system to the civil process.

This is a common sense approach to protect victims' rights. One of the causes of under-reporting of sexual assault is fear of shaming, retaliation, guilt, and embarrassment.

SB 261 allows the focus of the trial to be on the behavior of the perpetrator where it belongs.

We applaud the sponsors for bringing this important legislation forward and urge the committee members to vote yes on SB 261-A.