

OREGON TRIAL LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

319 SW Washington Street, #607

Portland, OR 97204

www.oregontriallawyers.org

503-799-1017

Testimony of Arthur Towers
In Support of HB 3060-A
Before the
Senate Committee on Workforce
May 15, 2017

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 3060-A. This legislation is an important step forward to protect Oregonians from harassment on the job. Many of our members fight for workers who face on-the-job harassment, discrimination, injury, and whistleblower retaliation.

We believe that the state should not spend taxpayer money with companies that refuse to have policies around harassment on the job.

Our members on the ground report that, sadly, too many workers still face barriers like harassment and discrimination on the job.

It is an important step for the state to require contractors to meet the basic requirements spelled out in HB 3060. This will impact workers in a variety of sectors that receive public funding – health care, construction, and long term care to name just three of the largest industries reliant on public funds.

We regret that victims of discrimination and harassment who work for government contractors cannot sue to get this law enforced. As public sector budgets get cut – including budgets for enforcement of laws like HB 3060 – victims need now more than ever to have the right to take their case to a jury of 12 ordinary citizens. A jury can hear both sides of the story and determine the community standard for justice when it comes to discrimination and harassment by government contractors. We entrust juries with much larger decisions and should entrust them with this one as well.

That said, **OTLA strongly urges a YES vote on HB 3060-A.**