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Via Email

House Business and Labor Committee

Re: Testimony in Support of House Bill 2181
On behalf of the Oregon Trial Lawyers Association

Chair Holvey and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2181, a bill to provide access to justice for Oregonians. Oregon Trial Lawyers Association members fight for workers who face on-the-job discrimination for reasons such as their race, gender, disability, sexual orientation, or religion. OTLA members also fight for workers who have been unfairly denied wages by their employers.

OTLA members report that the changes contemplated by the introduced bill will significantly enhance the ability of workers to be able to ensure that they receive all compensation that they are due. HB 2181 simply provides a mechanism to ensure that employees will be free from retaliation for simply trying to ensure they are paid all of the wages they are owed.

We commend committee members for all your efforts over the years to improve the quality of life for workers and to provide them on-the-job protections. That said, these laws can be ineffective if there are barriers to enforcement. This bill will help give workers a better chance to be treated fairly. These stronger enforcement provisions can provide incentives to employers to take steps to pay their employees correctly, which should be our goal. OTLA supports the effort to give workers more access to justice and urges a yes vote on HB 2181.

Sincerely,
Christina Stephenson