

# OREGON TRIAL LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

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Testimony of Arthur Towers  
Before the Joint Interim Committee on  
The First Special Session of 2020

In Support of Section 7(1) of LC 84 and Section 15(1) of LC 45  
(Preservation of Rights for Injured, Abused, and Defrauded Oregonians)  
June 22, 2020

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. **Section 7(1) of LC 84 and Section 15(1) of LC 45 should be enacted without amendment.**

These proposals, worked out in negotiations among stakeholders and the Oregon Judicial Department, extend deadlines for filing civil litigation by people injured, abused or defrauded. This affects suits unrelated to Covid-19, but for which statutes of limitation are impacted by the inaccessibility of the courts during the pandemic, and the inability to prepare suits while the economy has been shut down.

OTLA members who fight for the rights of individuals who have been harmed are predominantly small business owners. Their ability to stand up for their clients has been diminished by the logistical barriers of the pandemic.

**The pandemic and resulting government action should not interfere with the 7<sup>th</sup> Amendment right of ordinary Oregonians to be able to tell their story to a judge and jury.**