

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 LCs 78, 80, 81, and 83
(Prevention and Reduction of Excessive Use of Force by Police)
June 22, 2020

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of these important legislative concepts.

The members of the Oregon Trial Lawyers Association are lawyers who fight for underdogs. In this instance, the underdogs are Oregonians who suffer the effect of the use of excessive force by law enforcement officials.

We support the legislative concepts under consideration today. They are important initial (and long overdue) steps to prevent and reduce police violence. We applaud the Governor for calling on a special session on this topic and the legislature for giving these issues the level of consideration they deserve. We appreciate the opportunity to be part of the discussions.

We look forward to additional actions by the legislature for the cause of racial and civil justice, and urge the legislature to enact the bills stemming from LC 78, 80, 81 and 83.