

OREGON TRIAL LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

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Testimony Regarding HB 3416
House Business and Labor Committee
Arthur Towers, on behalf of
Oregon Trial Lawyers Association
April 8, 2019

Thank you for the opportunity to testify against HB 3416. HB 3416 is a poorly-crafted attempt to create a loophole to deny certain workers unemployment insurance.

OTLA members are lawyers who fight for underdogs. In this case, the workers are salespeople who are laid off and need unemployment benefits to make ends meet while they seek a new job.

We are concerned that this poorly-written bill will have the unintended consequence of denying a wide range of workers involved in sales needed unemployment insurance if they are laid off due to no fault of their own. As written, this bill could deny unemployment insurance to workers involved in business-to-business sales, phone sales and other occupations.

Carving out groups of workers from coverage of unemployment insurance is bad public policy. Unemployment insurance was created for a reason: to keep workers from falling into destitute poverty if they are actively seeking work and if they have been laid off due to no fault of their own. By denying workers this important temporary assistance, we will be creating a policy that pushes workers on to additional public assistance – food stamps, OHP, and the like.

We urge you to preserve workers' rights. We urge you not create new loopholes in Oregon's safety net. We urge you to vote NO on HB 3416.