

**Testimony before the House Judiciary Committee
In support of HB 3249
On behalf of the Oregon State Bar
March 27, 2019**

Representative Williamson, members of the Committee:

The Oregon State Bar's mission is not merely to regulate attorneys, it is to improve the quality of legal services provided to Oregonians. The historic concept of attorney-client, which is now a part of the Oregon Evidence Code, is an important tool that allows lawyers to provide their clients with a higher quality of legal services by allowing the lawyer and client to speak candidly and confidentially without fear that the conversation can later be used against the client.

The Oregon State Bar coordinated with the proponents of this bill prior to the bill's introduction to ensure that the bill did not cause undue confusion and did not have any detrimental impacts on lawyers or on their ability to zealously represent their clients. We are satisfied that the bill in its current form strikes the right balance.

We appreciate the work that has gone into this proposal by all of the stakeholders and are happy to continue to work with this committee as this bill moves forward.