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Testimony of Arthur Towers
In Support of HB 4107
Before the House Judiciary Committee
February 3, 2020

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of HB 4107. I am proud to be the Political Director for the Oregon Trial Lawyers Association. Our members are lawyers who fight for underdogs. In this instance, the underdogs are consumers and workers who face discrimination.

HB 4107 is straightforward. Consumers who choose to use cash or who do not have access to debit cards or credit cards should not be discriminated against by merchants. This common-sense proposal expands access to commercial establishments to all Oregonians – a completely reasonable goal for our state’s anti-discrimination statutes.

The bill also protects workers who choose to wear their hair in a culturally specific style. Again, the bill spells out protections for Oregonians who want to come to work and who have the skills and abilities to perform a job. These workers should not face disparate treatment based on hair style. That is completely counter to the standard of justice we stand for as Oregonians.

We strongly support HB 4107. We thank the sponsors for bringing this bill forward, and we urge committee members to vote yes on HB 4107.