

**Testimony in Favor of HB 2007  
Senate Workforce Committee  
Arthur Towers, Political Director  
Oregon Trial Lawyers Association  
May 6, 2015**

On behalf of the members of the Oregon Trial Lawyers Association, and the clients whom they fight for, I am testifying in favor of House Bill 2007.

OTLA has a number of members who practice employment law. These attorneys and legal staff help workers who have been retaliated against because they are whistleblowers or who have suffered wrongful termination. We represent workers who have suffered discrimination on the job due to disability, gender, age, race, ethnic origin, sexual orientation or family situation.

Our members active in this field have flagged the sort of retaliation prohibited by HB 2007 as a widespread problem. It is important to be able to openly discuss wage disparity on the job. That is the most direct way to address issues of pay inequity and wage discrimination.

The proposal carves out reasonable exceptions while at the same time providing enforcement mechanisms that will ensure that workers' rights are protected. Wage transparency is an important means to achieving fair treatment on the job.

We urge your support for HB 2007.