

OREGON TRIAL LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

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Testimony of Arthur Towers
In Support of House Bill 2652
House Committee on Natural Resources
February 5, 2019

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2652. Members of the Oregon Trial Lawyers Association fight for underdogs, including Oregonians who are severely injured or who suffer traumatic brain injuries.

Our members see first-hand the impact of traumatic brain injuries on individuals and their families. These sorts of injuries can cause generational harm for families, permanently changing the arc of their lives. **We want to prevent these injuries wherever possible.**

This is why OTLA works closely with nurses and other health professionals to fund a program to distribute bike helmets to kids free of charge, and why we have a speakers' bureau to talk to high school students about the dangers of distracted driving. We also join with the Brain Injury of Association on educational programming.

HB 2652 is a very good step in making boating safer for Oregon families. This is a common sense approach to keeping Oregonians safe. Raising the awareness of the need for helmets is going to take time, as it has with bike helmets. Making the helmets available for boaters is an excellent first step that is not too onerous on outfitters and guides. We know that outfitters and guides share our concern for safety.

We urge a YES vote on HB 2652.