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Testimony of Arthur Towers  
In Opposition to HB 3131  
Before the  
House Committee on Business and Labor  
March 27, 2019

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in opposition to HB 3131. As you know, OTLA members are lawyers who fight for underdogs. These underdogs include consumers who purchase auto insurance. HB 3131 is an attack on consumer protection and transparency. The bill and the -1 amendment make it much easier for insurance companies to exclude drivers from motor vehicle insurance policies, unbeknownst to the policy holders.

**Current law provides a safeguard for consumers so they clearly know who is covered and who is not covered. HB 3131 strips consumers of this protection.** Current law requires the insurer to get written sign-off from the consumer when the insurance company wants to exclude a driver. HB 3131 would allow insurers to exclude drivers simply by sending notice. The notice could easily be missed by consumers who are regularly bombarded with envelopes featuring lizards and hands and national monuments and the like. Many consumers are not diligent about reading the fine print on their insurance policies or on each and every piece of mail from their insurance company.

**HB 3131 will increase the number of uninsured drivers on Oregon's roads, putting all of us more at risk.** For instance college students or members of the military who move in and out of the family home on a regular basis may need to notify the insurance company each time they do so, or risk being excluded on their parents' policy {Section 7(a)(ii)}. When crashes occur involving these drivers, victims may well have a difficult time getting their medical bills and other expenses paid.

The rationale behind the bill is that it will help the insurance market offer policies in line with the sharing economy. This committee is already wrestling with this issue in House Bills 3023 and 3379. Those bills are being designed to maximize consumer protection, not minimize it. **We urge you to vote NO on HB 3131.**