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Testimony of Arthur Towers
In Support of HB 2575
Before the
House Committee on Judiciary
Subcommittee on Equitable Policing
March 3, 2019

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2575. As you know, OTLA members fight for underdogs. Today, the underdogs we are discussing are individuals that have experienced trauma through abuse, neglect and the wrongdoing of others. We are very supportive of this important proposal to fund training in how to assist people who have experienced trauma.

Like many other victim advocates, our members see firsthand the impact that traumatic experiences can have on one's life. Our members work with survivors who are seeking justice and closure for the most challenging experiences of their lives and know that each one of them requires compassion and thoughtful understanding.

Recovering from traumatic experiences can often include fighting back against depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, guilt and other mental health issues. Bringing local governments and law enforcement agencies up to speed by providing grants for training on working with these survivors is a great way to address this issue and help these individuals feel supported and understood.

Talking about a traumatic experience can often force one who has experienced trauma to relive their situation, which can make the process for finding the facts and seeking justice a challenge. HB 2575 is an important step forward.

We thank the sponsors for their work on this important issue and urge your support for HB 2575.