

OREGON TRIAL LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

812 SW Washington Street, #900

Portland, OR 97205

www.oregontriallawyers.org

503-799-1017

Testimony of Arthur Towers

OTLA Political Director

In Regard to SB 261, SB 262, SJR 3, SJR 4

Before the Senate Committee on Rules

March 18, 2021

Chair Wagner, Vice-Chair Girod and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on the urgent need for the legislature to conduct business through a complete session.

The Oregon Trial Lawyers Association is a mission-driven organization seeking to protect the Constitutional rights of Oregonians while we operate in a highly partisan context.

Oregonians in every corner of the state rely on the legislature to fund services, to promote economic prosperity, and to advance justice and equity.

As just one example, we are working with legislators on consumer protection legislation to help wildfire victims and to enhance the rights of those who will be harmed by the impending earthquake and tsunami. Oregonians urgently need this legislation in place before the next wave of disasters hits.

Historically, we rarely or never weigh in on process-oriented issues related to how the legislature operates. However -- given what's at stake for Oregonians in the middle of a pandemic, economic suffering, and racial reckoning -- we feel compelled to speak in favor of any legislation that can help the legislature function more effectively and efficiently.