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Testimony of Arthur Towers

OTLA Political Director

In Support of House Bill 4075

Before the House Committee on Judiciary

February 2, 2022

Chair Bynum, Vice Chairs Noble and Power, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 4075, which improves the process of restitution for crime victims.

Our members represent crime victims in civil proceedings in which these victims are seeking to hold accountable both perpetrators of crimes and other responsible parties accountable for their actions.

HB 4075 is an important step in the right direction in regard to the improving the restitution process. We particularly appreciate the efforts to prioritize payments to victims over payments to the insurance industry.

We sincerely hope the discussions around this bill lead to a more robust conversation on how to adequately and appropriately fund restitution for crime victims. As others have testified, restitution can play an important part in the process of restorative justice, but a system that relies on often-impooverished Oregonians convicted of crimes to meet the needs of often-impooverished Oregonians victimized by crimes is fundamentally flawed.