

# OREGON TRIAL LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

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Testimony of Arthur Towers

OTLA Political Director

**In Support of HB 3006**

Before the House Committee on the Judiciary

February 1, 2023

Chair Kropf, Vice- Chairs Andersen and Wallan, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 3006.

OTLA members are lawyers who fight for underdogs. In this instance the underdogs are Oregonians injured due the negligence of others while engaged in recreational activity. We appreciate a great deal Representatives Reynolds, Hieb, Ruiz and Senators Campos, Patterson and Steiner for bringing this bill forward and to the committee for discussing this topic.

Our members directly see the impact on families when negligent operation of recreational facilities and watercraft result in injuries and death. This bill will keep kids safe, and help families avoid the unnecessary trauma and tragedy of an injury or death caused by the failure to wear floatation devices.

We're particularly supportive Section 1(4) when it pertains to for-profit entities that take kids out on boat rides. We know that the vast majority of commercial operators are doing the right thing and going the extra mile on safety. Our mission is to watchdog the handful of corner-cutters who would neglect safety considerations, and to help those victimized by negligence to get justice and closure.

The bill as a whole is excellent, and we urge you to **vote yes on HB 3006**.