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On Behalf Of:
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Measure: HB3006

House Judiciary

While it seems to make sense... isn't this law near redundant?

Many boat launches have life jackets hanging by the signs of rules and fee stations (I am good with that).

Seems boats must have a jacket (of proper size handy for each person in the boat and a throw device).

63 yrs of living in Oregon and by the time I was 8yr old I dang near lived in the rivers and lakes during summer.

Ha me and to 6th grade friends learned about hypothermia... it was a Feb. day and we thought the sun was warm.

So we grabbed inner tubes and put into a river about 1 1/2 mile upriver of my house. we were very strong swimmers

but new little of the effects of cold water. No life jackets and the river has a mild flow....maybe 45 min later we arrived to find

our mussels a little weak. Like most kids we learned what a hot wood stove was... in the traditional way :) we survived the trauma :)

Today I am old... today I have learned. Kids can learn and adults need to let them learn (not in reckless abandon... but kids will always

whether a adult is present or not). Kid's don't start playing with drugs in front of adults and a kid gets the keys to dads car and will near always test his or her skills (in ignorance).

Life has consequences and while adults must keep a watchful eye... it is better a adult is there when a kid gets to learn object lessons.

I learned to swim with out a life jacket in shallow water under adult supervision... I was taught to not go to the river alone and yet at some point

I went to the river alone.

Yes a few times in my long life I wanted a jacket... but by a long shot not every time i get in a boat on mild water or as I wade to fish or cool off in hot weather.

So I believe in Liberty over perceived security... once a life jacket pinned me while kayaking, when I got into a downed tree. would not have been a issue with out the life vest on... but I was better mentally prepared and didn't panic.

Vests make sense don't get me wrong... but a law seems to lack reason to me. (criminals and fools have no regard for laws).