

Submitter: Clive Morgan  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary  
Measure: HB3006

My son is a youth rower. This rule, without an exemption for rowing, would put Oregon youth rowers at a big disadvantage on the regional and national stage. Rowing youth compete in several age groups including U17, U16, U15. Wearing PFDs impacts mastery of efficient sculling technique; kids in other states would not be similarly burdened. Last year at Youth Nationals Oregon Rowing Unlimited performed exceptionally. These results would not be possible under the proposed rule.

Regattas and training camps in Oregon could also place rowing youth from other states at a safety risk, as these kids are not used to rowing with PFDs, and could get caught up.

In addition each youth rower has to pass a float test certified by a lifeguard. This involves treading water for 10 minutes, and putting on a PFD whilst in the water. I agree that an exception for rowers is required.