

Submitter: Kyle Pero
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure: HB3006

Dear Honorable Lawmakers,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed state law requiring personal flotation devices for all children under 16, with no exceptions. I believe that this law would harm the sport of rowing in Oregon and create a burden that other competitors do not have to deal with.

As an avid rower and someone who is passionate about this sport, I know that wearing a personal flotation device while competing is not possible. Rowing requires a great deal of technical skill and physical exertion, and the added bulk and discomfort of a flotation device would make it difficult to perform at a high level.

Furthermore, this proposed law would put Oregon rowing at a disadvantage compared to other states. Competitors from other states would not have to deal with the added burden of wearing a flotation device, giving them an unfair advantage. This would make it difficult for Oregon rowers to compete and succeed in national and international competitions.

I believe that a better solution would be to allow an exception for rowing as a sport. Rowers could be required to pass a swimming test before participating in the sport, which would ensure their ability to swim and stay safe in the water. This would still provide adequate protection for the participants, but it would not harm the sport of rowing in Oregon.

In conclusion, I strongly urge you to consider the negative impact that this proposed law would have on the sport of rowing in Oregon and to consider allowing an exception for this sport. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Kyle Pero
Oregon Rowing Unlimited