

Submitter: Elizabeth Coleman
On Behalf Of: Youth rowers
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure: HB3006

January 31, 2023

To: House Committee on the Judiciary

From: Elizabeth Coleman, Portland, OR 97202

RE: HB 3006 - Exemption for rowers

Dear Chair Kropf and members of the House Committee on the Judiciary,

We are a family that enjoys the many opportunities to recreate on Oregon's waterways. We respect the water and support safety first when entering any water. Our 15 year old son currently rows for a youth rowing club in Portland, where safety is of utmost concern.

I'm writing to ask the Committee to include an exemption in HB 3006 to allow children 16 and under to row without a personal floatation device, when supervised by an adult in a boat with additional flotation devices.

Youth rowing clubs regularly include children under the age of 16 and have instituted a number of measures to ensure the safety of our children. These youth are always accompanied by adults in motorized boats that have additional floatation devices. Children are required to pass a swim test before they are allowed in the boats.

Additionally, wearing PFDs greatly impacts efficient sculling technique and poses a safety risk as their oars could get caught in PFDs.

Thank you for considering an exemption for youth rowers from the requirement to wear PFDs in this bill.

Sincerely, Elizabeth Coleman and Nigel Clift