

February 15, 2023

Senate Committee on Judiciary
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: SB 754 Recreational Liability Reform

Chair Prozanski and Members of the Committee:

My wife and I have provided individuals and families with personal safety and self defense instruction in Oregon over the last 30 years.

Oregon has a real need to establish a balanced approach between personal responsibility and business accountability like all other Western states.

There is a huge difference between bad business practices and individuals making the personal decision to engage in recreational or sporting activities that include an element of personal risk.

Businesses engaging in poor practices will undoubtedly be found culpable and held liable for negligence. However, removing the protections provided by liability waivers removes the element of personal accountability for individual behavior and creates an untenable business environment.

All manner of recreational and fitness activities require a balance of personal responsibility and business accountability. Without reasonable protections we will find many recreational and fitness businesses unable to operate and ultimately remove the personal freedom to participate.

Ensuring that families and individuals have access to recreational and fitness activities is paramount for a healthy society, as is the need for personal responsibility. When we remove personal accountability from the individual, we remove the need for considerate and safe behavior on a personal level.

I ask for your support of bipartisan bill SB 754.

Sincerely,

Christopher Boyer
Academy of Modern Martial Arts