

February 4, 2026



Opposition to SB 1517
Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce
Senate Committee On Judiciary

Opposition to SB 1517

Dear Chair Prozanski and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

I'm writing on behalf of the **Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce**, representing thousands of employers across Lane County and the greater Eugene area. We oppose SB 1517 as currently drafted and appreciate the opportunity to provide our explanation.

Our region's recreation and wellness economy is broad, interconnected, and deeply embedded in the local business ecosystem. It includes health and fitness facilities, youth sports organizations, camps, outdoor guides and outfitters, climbing and recreation centers, tourism-oriented businesses, and numerous nonprofit organizations that provide recreational opportunities for families. Together, these organizations contribute significantly to regional employment, public health, and robust livability of Lane County.

Following the Bagley decision, many of these providers are facing increased uncertainty around liability exposure and risk management. While legislative action to address these concerns is appropriate, SB 1517 takes a narrow approach that addresses only a limited portion of the recreation economy. By focusing relief on a specific category of operators rather than establishing consistent standards across the broader sector, the bill risks creating uneven legal treatment among similarly situated businesses and organizations.

In practice, recreation providers operate within a shared risk environment. Facilities that serve youth athletes, fitness participants, outdoor recreation users, and wellness clients rely on predictable liability frameworks to remain accessible and affordable. Any legislative response should reflect the full scope of impacted industries rather than isolating individual segments.

One area of particular concern is the bill's lack of clarity regarding parental liability waivers. For many programs serving children and families, these agreements are essential to balancing safety, affordability, and access. Without clear recognition and protection of parental releases, providers may face increased exposure that could lead to higher program costs, reduced availability of youth offerings, or the elimination of certain services altogether.

Additionally, SB 1517 introduces new ambiguity at a time when providers are seeking clarity. Undefined terms, inconsistent standards, and uncertainty regarding applicability make it difficult for businesses to assess risk or plan for the future. Smaller operators and community-based nonprofits — many of which operate with limited margins — are especially vulnerable to increased insurance costs or litigation risks resulting from unclear statutory language.

The Eugene Area Chamber encourages the Legislature to pursue a more comprehensive and



balanced approach. SB 1593, the Oregon Recreation Commerce and Affordability Act of 2026, offers a more cohesive framework that addresses liability concerns across the recreation, health, and fitness industries while preserving consumer protections and maintaining access for Oregon families.

Recreation is a major economic and community asset for our region and the state as a whole. These organizations not only create jobs and support tourism but also advance public health outcomes and strengthen community connections. Legislative solutions should therefore promote consistency, clarity, and long-term sustainability for providers and participants alike.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the Committee to oppose SB 1517 and instead advance a comprehensive solution that addresses the needs of the entire recreation sector.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brittany Quick-Warner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'B' and 'Q'.

Brittany Quick-Warner
President & CEO
Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce