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On Behalf Of:	Steelhead Strength and Fitness
Committee:	Senate Committee On Commerce and General Government
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As any other company doing business within the state, the company is responsible for maintaining a safe environment for patrons. As a fitness facility owner, it is my responsibility to provide safe equipment, safe environment, and safe instruction and I can be liable if I neglect that responsibility. If other businesses (or people in general) are not responsible for the actions of others, why should fitness facilities be held responsible? Operating the equipment inside a fitness facility can be dangerous in the same way that operating a car can be dangerous. A car manufacturer can rightly be held responsible if an operator is injured due to faulty manufacturing. However, they are not responsible if that operator utilizes the automobile negligently. Why should that be different for fitness equipment? A properly documented liability waiver protects the fitness facility, it's employees and other patrons from negligence acts of another, the liability waiver signee. Most people forget that a claim against a business not only affects the business, it affects everyone the business touches. A properly documented liability waiver protects the community the institution or organization serves and supports. It does not circumvent due responsibility. It upholds it.