

Submitter: Lincoln Pechette  
On Behalf Of: Myself  
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary  
Measure: HB3006

January 31, 2023

To: House Committee on the Judiciary  
From: Lincoln Pechette, Milwaukie, OR 97267

RE: HB 3006 - Exemption for rowers

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

I am a youth rower, currently rowing for Oregon Rowing Unlimited youth rowing club in Portland. 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 available.

Youth rowing clubs have many safety measures in place to keep myself and my teammates safe. When I am on the water I am under the supervision of adults who are in boats nearby, and equipped with flotation devices in the event those are needed. Before I was allowed to join Oregon Rowing Unlimited I was required to show that I was both a strong swimmer and also was physically able to float for an extended period of time. These tests are safety measures that are unique to my sport. The coast guard has reviewed these safety measures and has provided an exemption. Their lead should be followed at the state level.

I also am concerned that the addition of a PFD would be more dangerous. Our uniforms consist of tight fitting clothing that can not have any pockets/straps that can be caught in the rigging. Adding a PFD seems counter intuitive to what is a proven safety measure for our sport. Rowing has exhibited water safety for many, many years locally and on the world stage.

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

Thank you,  
Lincoln Pechette, ORU youth rower