

Submitter: Melvyn Wishan
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure: HB3006

To whom this may concern,

Please be advised, I offer this testimony in support of HB 3006.

I have served as Safety director on the board of directors of the Oregon Ocean Paddling Society for over 4 years. During that time and including the present, I have kayaked many of the lakes and rivers of the Northern Willamette Valley and South Western Washington. I have navigated multiple rivers with whitewater rapids as well as calm lakes. Having appropriate immersion protection, I floated rivers in the late fall and winter, as well as Springtime. It is within my personal knowledge and experience that the waters of the northwest are generally cold, too cold for safe immersion without protection, including a personal flotation device, but I have seen too many individuals on boats, rafts and other flotation "toys" without the vital ,lifesaving PFD's. These habits are simply dangerous. It is often, a matter of life and death when an unintended entrance into cold water occurs. Hypothermia occurs rapidly and if one has to tread water without a life vest, The added exertion can be quickly exhausting. It is a simple remedy, a lifesaving remedy, to require adults and children to wear appropriate clothing and a PFD.

Respectfully submitted,
Melvyn S. Wishan, DDS, MDS