

Submitter: Melissa Fuller  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary  
Measure: HB3006

Dear Honorable Lawmakers,

I am writing as a parent of an Oregon youth rower and I strongly oppose the proposed state law requiring personal flotation devices (PFDs) for all children under 16, with no exceptions. This law would harm the sport of rowing in Oregon and create a burden that other competitors do not have to deal with at competitions on a national level as rowing youth compete in several age groups including U17, U16, U15.

These kids put their heart and soul and every single day dedicated to rowing for Oregon, with this proposed law you would be adding a huge disadvantage for them in all competitions as competitors from other states would not have to deal with the added burden of wearing a flotation device, giving them an unfair advantage. This would make it difficult for Oregon rowers to compete and succeed in national and international competitions.

Each rower has an advanced technical skill and physical exertion, and the added bulk and discomfort of a flotation device (PFDs) would make it difficult to perform at a high level. This proposal would not only add strenuous discomfort, but cause a burden for all rowers under 17 to make it to nationals. Please consider this and do not pass this proposal.