

Submitter: Courtney Layne

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Commerce and General Government

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1593

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Courtney Layne, and I respectfully submit this written testimony in support of legislation that provides liability protection for businesses offering activities that involve inherent risk, when participants have knowingly and voluntarily signed a waiver acknowledging those risks.

Many recreational, educational, and experiential businesses—such as outdoor adventure providers, sports and fitness operators, and tourism-related enterprises—offer valuable opportunities that rely on informed personal choice. These activities are widely understood to involve inherent risks that cannot be fully eliminated without fundamentally changing their nature. Participant waiver agreements serve an important purpose by ensuring individuals understand those risks and choose to participate responsibly.

This type of legislation strikes a necessary and appropriate balance. It preserves accountability by requiring clear, voluntary, and informed consent, while protecting businesses from undue liability in the absence of negligence or misconduct. Without these protections, many small and locally owned businesses face rising insurance costs, legal uncertainty, or are forced to reduce services or close entirely—limiting access to safe, well-regulated recreational opportunities.

Importantly, liability protections tied to participant waivers do not excuse reckless behavior or negligence. Instead, they reinforce personal responsibility and recognize that adults should be able to make informed decisions about participating in activities they understand carry inherent risk.

Supporting this policy helps protect local businesses, encourages economic activity, and preserves access to recreational and experiential opportunities that benefit communities across our state.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony and for your consideration of this important issue.

Respectfully submitted,
Courtney Layne
Tualatin, Oregon