

Submitter: Jenny Brown  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Commerce and General Government  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1593

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to share my personal perspective as a parent and community member regarding youth participation in outdoor activities, the role of parental involvement, and the broader impact of liability considerations on community access to the outdoors. I strongly support SB 1593, with the request to include parental liability waivers for minor children.

As a parent, I place a very high value on time spent outdoors as part of raising my children. Outdoor experiences have been central to how my family builds confidence, resilience, problem-solving skills, and a lasting appreciation for nature. Whether through organized activities or informal time outside, these experiences have helped my children develop independence while still relying on guidance, boundaries, and consent from me as a parent. I believe that this is core in building resilient and capable adults.

Beyond my role as a parent, I have also considered starting a small business aimed at helping members of my community—particularly youth and families—get outdoors safely and confidently. This would have been a way to share my passion for outdoor access while supporting others in building skills and connections through outdoor recreation. However, after careful consideration, I ultimately decided not to pursue this path. A significant factor in that decision was the level of risk and liability associated with operating an outdoor-focused business in Oregon. While risk is inherent in outdoor recreation, the current liability landscape made it difficult for me to envision a sustainable way provide services that balanced safety, parental involvement, and financial viability. I know I am not alone in this assessment, and I believe these considerations directly affect the availability of community-based outdoor opportunities.

My intent in sharing these thoughts is simply to provide real-world context from the perspective of a parent and potential small business owner who values outdoor access, youth development, and community engagement. I appreciate the opportunity to contribute my experience and perspective for consideration.

Thank you for your time and for the work you do on behalf of Oregon communities.

Sincerely,

Jenny Brown  
Silverton, Oregon