

Submitter: Margaret VanPatten
On Behalf Of: She Moves Mountains LLC
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1517

My name is Lizzy VanPatten, and I'm the founder of She Moves Mountains, a guided climbing and outdoor recreation business. I'm writing to respectfully urge you to oppose SB 1517 as amended (-6/-7).

I have lived the consequences of Oregon's waiver uncertainty firsthand: after an injury incident (broken ankle) where our guides were not negligent, we were still sued, our insurer settled, and we were later dropped—forcing an expensive and emotionally draining pivot just to keep serving the public.

SB 1517 (-6/-7) does not provide the clarity insurers need to return or remain in the market. It limits releases to injuries sustained "in the act of performing" the activity and carves out broad categories of common claims—negligent training/supervision, failure to warn, equipment issues, premises/parking, and more—making it easy to plead around and guaranteeing continued litigation costs.

If the Legislature's goal is to stabilize insurance and protect access to recreation and fitness, SB 1517 is not the answer. Please prioritize SB 1593 (ORCA), the more comprehensive, statewide approach that is intended to realign Oregon policy and restore predictability for recreation and fitness providers while preserving accountability for reckless or grossly negligent conduct.