

Submitter: Tanya March
On Behalf Of: Slabtown Tours LLC
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1517
Subject: Support for SB 1593 / Concerns regarding SB 1517-7 which I Oppose

Dear Chair Bowman, Vice-Chairs Elmer and Pham, and members of the committee:

My name is Tanya Lyn March, PhD. I am the owner of Slabtown Tours LLC and, notably, a Zamboni Driver. I am writing to you because the current insurance climate in Oregon is unsustainable for small-scale recreation and tourism.

Currently, I watch out-of-state companies lead tours using national insurance umbrellas while local guides are priced out and gamble guiding without insurance. Simultaneously, our local skaters are forced to train in neighboring states because Oregon's operational insurance costs have become prohibitive as rink after rink closes.

SB 1517-7, as written, would worsen this crisis. While well-intentioned, it creates more hurdles than it clears. For local outfitters and guides to survive, Oregon must declare that liability waivers are enforceable as a matter of public policy. The balanced language found in SB 1593 provides the common-sense solution we need.

We are not asking for a free pass. We are asking for the same legal framework used by our neighbors—a system that recognizes the inherent risks of recreation while maintaining a guest's right to seek justice in cases of true negligence.

We want to get back to sharing Oregon's history, indoor fitness and outdoors adventures. If action isn't taken this session, many of us will not be in business by next year. I had hoped to pass my company on to my children and I see that dream dying the death not of a 100 cuts but because of insurance being the redlining of small tour operators.

Thank you for your leadership and your time.

Sincerely,

Tanya Lyn March, PhD