

Senator Edward Meyer, Representative Linda M. Gentile and the Environmental Committee
Concerning HR Bill # 6541 hearing on Friday March 8, 2013.

I OPPOSE ALLOWING ONLINE COURSES IN HUNTER SAFETY.

I know that your committee is considering changing the law to allow a short on-line computer course to take the place of classroom-based safe trapping, hunting and archery practices courses. That's the change in the law that is going to allow on-line training for firearms. This is a really bad idea.

Please do not allow this new law to go into effect!

Apart from the issue of identity - how will you guaranty that the person taking the course and test is actually who he says he is – there are a number of other issues that are even more concerning since this relates to firearms and weapons:

- A classroom is an environment which encourages questions, exchange of ideas and collaboration. A good instructor will notice which student needs more assistance and will have the opportunity to clarify subjects and provide extra support.
- Hunting is a dangerous activity. While you may allow on-line education towards a political science degree, would you want to be treated by an MD who achieved his degree on-line?
- What about the physical ability to practice hunting? Why not have another opportunity to review that? Anyone who would want to practice hunting should be able to make it to a classroom environment and be able to "endure" a classroom session.

I STRONGLY oppose changing the regulations/laws regarding Hunter Safety training at this time.

Sincerely,
Niv Dauber
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