

Dear Committee,

I am very concerned to learn of the upcoming proposal to offer boating, hunting and firearms classes in an online format. As a teacher, I know the importance of learning in a variety of ways, including the interactions between the students and teacher and the hands-on training that cannot be replicated with a computer screen.

I have completed the Boater Safety class and felt it provided a strong and necessary foundation. It was a full day of well-rounded instruction from a professional. He kept things interesting, informative and interactive. The emphasis, obviously, was SAFETY.

It seems to me that our safety standards are being seriously jeopardized with this proposal. The only possible reason for this bill must be to somehow save money, but at what cost?

Please don't allow online courses in firearms and boater safety to replace or dilute the many benefits of a real classroom experience. Online makes it easier, but showing up and getting the full package makes it safer. Isn't that the point?

Thank you for your consideration,

Monica DeMeo
Farmington, CT