

dear senator edward meyer, representative linda gentile & environmental comte :

concerning bill #6541 - i oppose this bill and i am strongly opposed to online courses in boater and hunter safety.

i know your committee is going to be holding hearings to consider changing the laws which would allow online courses to take the place of classroom courses for boater safety courses. i know that law would also include on-line training for firearms. in view of what has just happened in ct at sandy hook, are you seriously proposing something to make it easier/simpler for people to use firearms.??

i strongly oppose this bill and any consideration which would remove the classroom from boater and firearm instruction. boats and firearms under the control of people with less than comprehensive instruction are lethal weapons. this would be akin to having folks who want to drive taking an on-line course to get a driving license.

when i took a course to get my license to operate a boat, i attended an all-day comprehensive classroom instruction where there was back and forth between a neophyte like me and a seasoned captain who could determine with a professional perspective whether i was qualified. i also had to pass a comprehensive examination in an environment that prevented any cheating to take place.

please recognize that i am not opposed generally to online courses. i am a huge fan of khan academy. however, when a course is a matter of a life or death potential outcome (unlike a geometry course), personalized oversight and supervision is required. this is an unsafe proposal putting people at risk.

i am opposed to changing laws governing boating and hunter safety in this manner and at this time.

thank you -- robert a matzner