

For the Environment Committee, concerning HR Bill # 6541 - hearing on Friday March 8, 2013

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 boating courses. That's the change in the law that is also 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.

I found during my NRA personal pistol safety course and my CT Safe Boating Course that I took **IN PERSON** that there was so much more knowledge easily instilled into the educating process through questions and answers from other course members. The instructors were able to clearly and in different terms when required thoroughly explain risky and/or dangerous situations that arise when handling guns, and operating personal watercraft and boats. If you don't give the chance for a student to ask a question and receive a thorough explanation and understanding when they are in need of such explanation, you are simply putting **lives at risk**.

An on-line course is a **BAD IDEA** for this type of education.

In addition - what **security measures** could be taken to 100% authenticate that the student taking the exam on-line is in-fact the person who will be receiving the permit ? Registering for the course I took was done in person, with multiple forms and a photo ID. I would even think they should fingerprint applicants in the future as well. **ONE GUN IN THE WRONG HANDS** - or **ONE UNEDUCATED BOATER** - can **TAKE THE LIFE** of **one** or **more** people in a fraction of a second from a simple mistake.

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

Thank you -

Respectfully,
Robert Graham
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