

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

I took the boating safety course last summer and heard that you were considering offering it online. It was an interactive course with lots of questions that were answered during the course. It was during these times where we were able to hear about subjects that needed further explanation. The course was amazing and have recommended other people take the course as it was a great interactive course.

I noticed there were a lot of young people taking the course. The course information and teacher held our attention and knowing there was a test afterward assisted you in being part of the course-- as you wanted to really learn the information to do well on the test. If you allow it to be offered online, there will be the ability to cheat and not afford the attention that the material covered demands. How will you police that the person taking the course is actually the person who applied for the license? If you want people to learn the information-- they need to be accountable and present for the course!

We also were able to view and ask questions about boating charts, practice tying rope knots and I was able to ask how to dock my own 21 foot boat against the wind. These would not occur in an online course. I also read that the online course was to be coupled with a course on gun safety-- another course that should be in person. There were 3 gun shows with people that were trained to handle guns where 5 people were shot just these past few months. Gun safety should be an in-depth, in-person course with the ability for people to show competence.

I STRONGLY oppose changing the regulations/laws regarding Boating Safety and Hunter Safety training at this time and plead that these courses remain separate and to be taught in-person!

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter!

Sincerely, Sharon Bendzlowicz-Vogt
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