

## Hobart, Jamie

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**From:** Rep. Orange, Linda  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 26, 2014 1:02 PM  
**To:** Hobart, Jamie  
**Subject:** FW: Chair Lift legislation

Hi Jamie,

Please include this email from a constituent in testimony on HB 5148 (Public Hearing was on the 18th).

Thanks,  
Linda

**From:** "Carl E. Swanback" <Cswanback@hotmail.com>  
**Date:** February 20, 2014 5:53:46 PM EST  
**To:** <lindaorange@yahoo.com>  
**Subject:** Chair Lift legislation

Linda,

I wanted to weigh in on the proposed legislation for chair lifts. As you may or may not know I am a 30 year ski industry veteran. I have worked lifts, safety patrol and more importantly I am an internationally certified ski/snowboard instructor who has taught more than 100,000 lessons on two continents and three countries. While I generally support your/the bill there is a side to it that may have not been taken into consideration. There are five main reasons for people falling out of chair lifts:

1. They sit too far forward at loading – these people usually fall before the first tower at lower heights in a corralled area)
2. Leaning forward while someone else pulls the bar down knocking the rider out
3. Exiting the chair too early while coming into the unloading station
4. Exiting too late at the top either being tossed out after going around the bull wheel or because they missed getting the safety bar up in time.
5. They fall while pulling the safety bar down or raising it up.
6. Leaning forward w/o bar down during a quick stop of the chair

The proposed law will only stop number 6. If this was about gun laws the change would have such a small affect it would not be worth the time to pass it. (Sorry, couldn't resist the jab) But seriously, any measure toward safety is worth the effort and I want to address number 5. With many of my lessons being with children I can tell you that number 5 leads to more children falling than all others besides number 1. Here are the guidelines generally accepted by The Professional Ski Instructors of America:

- Small children are taught how to properly load and unload.
- They never ride alone.

- Smaller children less skilled riders load on the side of the lift attendant and the lift attendant is notified so that they will slow the chair down for easier loading.
- Children are lined up with adults who have been asked if they will assist the child on and off and pull the safety bar down.
- Children riding together, with out an adult, are encouraged to sit on the outside so that they can easily reach the bar.
- If they are unable to pull the bar down they are instructed to sit all the way back, face forward only and remain still.
- They are taught not to scoot forward until their skiers/board is over the exit platform.
- Lastly, they are taught to clear the exit platform quickly.

Making the law mandatory without address young children may actually increase the number of incidents. As such, I urge you to address that issue in your legislation.

Regards,

Carl E. Swanback – PSIA- A3  
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