

CONGRESSIONAL
SPORTSMEN'S
FOUNDATION

To: House Education Policy and Administration
GP Room 232
107 North Main St
Concord, NH 03301

Re: New Hampshire HB 1122 – Hunter Safety Course

Position: Support

Date: January 20, 2026

Honorable Members of the House Education Policy and Administration,

My name is Fred Bird, and I am the Manager for the Eastern States for the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation (CSF). I write to you in support of NH House Bill (HB) 1122 – Hunter Safety Course, legislation that seeks to enhance wildlife conservation efforts and protects sporting heritage by offering hunter safety education in schools. Hunting has always been integral to New Hampshire's cultural heritage, and offering hunter education in schools would be an invaluable avenue for introducing more kids from all walks of life to the virtues of being outdoors. If passed, NH HB 1122 would teach students proper firearm safety, handling, and storage, New Hampshire's hunting laws and regulations, wildlife conservation, and ethical hunting practices, while also potentially recruiting the next generation of sportsmen and women.

Founded in 1989, CSF is the informed authority across outdoor issues and serves as the primary conduit for influencing public policy. Working with the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus (CSC), the Governors Sportsmen's Caucus (GSC), and the National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses (NASC), CSF gives a voice to hunters, anglers, recreational shooters, and trappers on Capitol Hill and throughout state capitols advocating on vital outdoor issues that are the backbone of our nation's conservation legacy.

In a world that is becoming increasingly digitized and distant from nature, opportunities to participate in activities that attract young people outdoors are pivotal to ensuring the health and well-being of New Hampshire's youth. Students aged 16 years or older, which HB 1122 address, are in very transformative years and providing them with education on hunter safety as well as the role that hunters play in wildlife conservation is essential.

Furthermore, participation in hunting has generally been on the decline for years now. Efforts to bring hunting safety education classes into the classroom would bolster hunter recruitment, retention, and reactivation (R3) efforts. Introduction to hunting and the shooting sports through a controlled and well-developed curriculum is an excellent way to recruit new hunters. These efforts are critical to ensuring the future of conservation funding through the "user pays – public benefits" structure of the American System of Conservation Funding. As today's sportsmen and women age out, they take their critical conservation dollars with them, leaving a funding gap to be filled by

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the next generation of sportsmen and women.

By allowing local school districts to offer courses in hunting safety education, students will receive instruction and guidance from certified instructors and obtain the knowledge and experience needed to participate in our shared sporting heritage. Upon successful completion of the course, students will be well equipped to get outdoors and participate in our time-honored traditions where they will hopefully spark a passion that will carry with them for the rest of their lives. In recognition of the many positive bearings that HB 1122 would have on New Hampshire's youth, CSF stands in firm support of HB 1122. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this issue. Should you require additional information on this, or other sportsmen-related topics, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,



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