

Grace Daniell
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LD 439

Dear Senators, Representatives, and members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee, my name is Grace Daniell and I am an 8th grader at Orono Middle School. I am testifying in support of LD 439, An Act to Preserve Maine's Sporting Heritage and Enhance Sporting Opportunities for Maine's Youth by Allowing Maine's Youth to Hunt on Sunday.

A picture-perfect weekend with beautiful weather— your parents pulled you out of school on Friday for a little more time in your happy place. But, as it usually goes, the weather app was wrong and it rained all day Saturday. The next few weekends you have obligations or your parents can't get out of meetings for work. Next thing you know the season is over and you only got a few days to hunt. This could all change if Sunday hunting was allowed for Maine's youth hunters. I myself would be elated if I had the chance to double my time in the woods and my chances of a better season.

I know the feeling of disappointment when you leave the woods empty handed or even leaving with plenty of prizes but a desire for more time with your family or friends over a weekend.

Passing LD 439 would allow many families to enjoy all possible time hunting over the weekends and bring joy to many young hunters.

People would love to see this bill passed because the reasons why Sunday hunting is prohibited aren't as valid anymore. The blue laws in place were originally made to prevent work on the Sabbath day, but hunting isn't seen as work anymore and is way more recreational. Another reason why the blue laws aren't valid is because hunting used to be seen as a man's job —for providing— but is now widely perceived as a family activity.

Another thing that would improve if LD 439 is passed is popularity. Some people can't manage to get out of work or school on Fridays and struggle to get home on time before Monday just to only hunt one day of the weekend. Others feel that it's a waste of time to spend all of the weekend away hunting if they can only hunt Saturday, or they don't want to make hunting a new hobby because of the short amounts of time they can spend in the woods. Sunday hunting would allow more people to join in the sport and this will ultimately lead to more young hunters in years to come. More people getting involved in regularly hunting weekends could bring attention to the sport and help conservation and preservation efforts of the Maine woods.

I hope we can increase hunting time for Maine's youth by passing LD 439

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony.