

The Outdoor School for All bill - LD 895 - An Act to Support Immersive Outdoor Education by Establishing the Outdoor School for All Maine Students Program is a matter of significant personal importance to me. My father, Leslie Hyde, dedicated his career to outdoor education by founding the Tanglewood 4-H Camp and Blueberry Cove Camp and Learning Center. These community-driven organizations aim to inspire rural Maine children to engage with nature through outdoor play and learning.

My name is Lily Hyde Sytsma, and I grew up in Tenants Harbor, Maine, a small coastal community, and still live there today. I believe this program would greatly benefit local children by providing opportunities for outdoor learning. As a mother of three boys—William, 12; Lucas, 7; and Jeffrey, 3—I have witnessed firsthand their love for outdoor activities. Engaging in hunting, fishing, and various outdoor pursuits is an excellent way for children to acquire valuable skills.

By utilizing the outdoors as a learning environment, we have the opportunity to connect our local fishing economy and our outdoor Learning Centers with the educational needs of our children and community.

Lily Hyde  
Tenants Harbor  
LD 895

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