

Sarah Joyce  
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LD 1322

I am writing in support of Bill LD1322 that expands hunting opportunities to young Mainers. Times have changed drastically and protecting, as well as promoting the Maine tradition of hunting needs to mirror these changes. Maine youth is faced with more demands, be it academically, athletically or socially than ever before. To be frank they have much more chaotic lives than the adults in their lives could have imagined and free time is limited. Youth needs role models and teachers with a passion for the hunting as well as other outdoor activities to expose them to all Maine has to offer. I myself am not a hunter, but I support hunting in Maine; responsible hunters keep our wildlife population healthy and are stewards of the land. My children have had the opportunity to participate in youth turkey hunting, through Maine Moose Kids for the past two years. Experienced, responsible volunteers have shared their expertise and knowledge with my children, it has brought them joy and more appreciation for the outdoor world. We have dined on wild turkey for Christmas dinner for the past two years, and my boys have been proud they've provided it. These amazing volunteers also are busy with their own obligations, let's loosen these tight restrictions giving both Maine youth and their teachers more opportunity to continue the Maine traditions that make us Mainers.

Sincerely,

Sarah Joyce (proud mother of youth hunters)