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Testimony of Rep. Scott Landry presenting

**LD 2052, An Act to Provide Additional Moose Hunting Opportunities for
Maine Youth Experiencing Critical Illnesses**

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

Good afternoon, colleagues on the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee. I am Representative Scott Landry, and I represent the towns of Chesterville and Farmington in House District 75. Today I am here to tell you about a bill that I am very proud of, one that probably should have been done a long time ago. It is **LD 2052, "An Act To Provide Additional Moose Hunting Opportunities for Maine Youth Experiencing Critical Illnesses."**

Currently, the Department gives out two Moose permits per year to two organizations, Catch a Dream and Hunt of a Lifetime. These are fantastic organizations and I was very happy to hear that they have been using these permits and bringing kids in to enjoy our state. However, a gap has been identified- two permits for the entire country is not enough. No, two permits for just sick kids in Maine is probably not enough. This bill will leave those two permits going to those organizations and add three additional permits for Maine kids to be taken out by Maine organizations.

There are 60 new cases of pediatric cancer a year in Maine, which on its face is heartbreaking. What is even more heart breaking is that many of these kids are spending their days in hospitals, rehab facilities and in waiting rooms rather than playing outside, fishing and hunting. These permits will give these young Mainers the opportunity to take a break from the hard life they have, give their parents a chance to see their child smile and remind them that their fight against their illness is worth it because there is life in the outdoors waiting for them. I invite you all to support this bill unanimously, as the Legislative Council did just weeks ago.

Thank you, and I appreciate you directing all of your questions at Jared Bornstein who twisted my arm to put this bill in!