

Good afternoon, Senator Baldacci, Representative Roberts, and members of the committee. I am Kelly Stanley from Naples, Maine and am here today to ask for your support of LD 6. Born and raised in Maine, I grew up with stories of my grandfather and his "famous" trapper friend Walter Arnold. Unfortunately, they had both passed before my memory, but their love of the Maine Woods and magic of their stories lives on. My favorite story about Walter is of his connection with nature. Even though Walter had trapped many species, he was so connected with nature that he had wild animals befriend him, including a deer named Suzy; named after my mom. Suzy the deer visited him at his trapping cabin, ate out of his hand, and would bring her fawns to meet him in the spring. I had a couple of adventures flying by seaplane into that camp and even though I wasn't a trapper back then, trappers held a place of wonder and respect in my heart.

Fast forward to late September a few years ago; all my chickens had been eaten by a fox, I was visiting the Fryeburg Fair, and I ran into the trapping booth... the rest is history, and a short liner was born. For those who may not know, a short liner is a trapper with only a few traps out at a time. As a single parent, working full time, squeezing in studies and kids' activities, my trap line has to be short. You'll find I only have about half a dozen lines out at a time and that's what allows me to fully utilize each catch; from fur to meat, to creating my own lures and jewelry, tanning my own hides and more... eventually I am blessed to be watching the eagles enjoy what's left. Trapping has become my path to connect with this earth in a more meaningful way.

Little did I know, my efforts to become a trapper and get out into the woods would lead me straight into politics. I'll thank

the Maine Trappers Association for that. While I'm showing my gratitude, I would like to also thank Senator Black for sponsoring this legislation. Months ago, many of us at the Maine Trappers Association deemed this legislation a priority. As you can imagine, being a single mother makes me take extra precaution in everything I do. Trapping is no different. Whether we like it or not, sometimes there are people in the world and in the woods who pose a threat to others. Many trappers, including myself, have been targeted, posted to online groups, and threatened. As one might encounter these people, other disgruntled members of the public, or generally dangerous persons in the forests, the last thing that I want to do is identify myself publicly, with an everyday pattern of checking traps, to those who might do harm to myself or my children.

What urged me to push this forward was an experience from last fall. An ATV trail in Denmark was being flooded by beaver, and I was asked to put in some sets. Traps had been placed for well over a week and had yet to be successful. My "littlest trapper", an overtired 4-year-old, was loaded into the car and she quickly fell asleep as we drove to do our check. Looking for tips on what to try next, my mentor was on the headset as I pulled into the parking area. The lot was normally empty, but I noticed there was a taxidermist parked in the lot that day and I offhandedly mentioned it to my mentor. He quickly asked if it was a Jeep, and I said, "Yes," and read him the logo on the vehicle. Very firmly and with a note of alarm he said, "Take Piper with you, he is a pedophile."

Shocked, I listened while he explained that the man also traps and has been a registered pedophile for many years. Not only did I keep my little girl close, but I was on high alert as I pulled out every single one of my traps. With a sick feeling

in my stomach, I prayed he hadn't already seen us within that week and a half and that he hadn't already checked to see where we lived. I can still feel the fear that welled up and lingers even now as I continually wonder, did he find out where we lived? Could he be watching us even now? It's one thing to walk by a pedophile on the street or even in the woods, and a whole different thing to hand him your name and address.

For these reasons, I ask you to support LD 6, which is a simple and important way to increase safety in the woods. It provides a layer of protection and comfort to trappers like me, while at the same time providing the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife with the identification information necessary to enforce our trapping laws and regulations effectively.

I thank you all for listening and for your dedication to protecting the people of Maine through small changes with big impact.