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Good afternoon Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer and esteemed members of the Health and Human Services Committee. My name is Jared Bornstein, I am here today representing Moose Maine Kids and Moose Maine Kids Dream Adventures. We are testifying in opposition to LD 1737. We are a non-profit with two tracks of service to our wonderful state. First, Moose Maine Kids takes underserved kids on hunting, fishing and outdoor adventures. Second, Moose Maine Kids Dream Adventures is solely dedicated to taking children with critical illnesses on hunting, fishing and outdoor adventures. Our Dream Adventures program was created when we realized that there are 60 new cases of pediatric cancer per year, and that Maine needs its own organization taking these kids on hunts. We are grateful that the committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife granted this population 3 moose permits for Maine kids, in addition to the 2 permits it gives to the national groups to bring kids here. Our dream adventures program has received all three Maine permits in the two years since the program was expanded.

If you were to buy a guided moose hunt after receiving a permit in the lottery, you are looking at between \$6,000 and \$10,000 for a reputable outfitter. If you want to purchase a lodge tag, you will spend somewhere between \$20,000-\$30,000. We do the hunts for these kids completely free of charge. It's not only free, if needed we supply all of the equipment for them including clothes, guns, and anything else necessary. They keep it when they are done with us so they have the stuff they need to continue their journey in the outdoors.

Our organization has been the recipient of a Lodge Tag, which this bill is looking to regulate through the license required to enter the outfitter lottery. Some will tell you that the legislature authorized these lodge tags to benefit for profit sporting camps. That's untrue. The legislative intent was to stimulate rural economies by allowing organizations to sell an expensive permit to out of state buyers. The money comes from away and is spent in the most rural parts of our state. Outfits buy food, gas, pay staff and pay taxes. It is a great program in my opinion. However, this is a terrible bill. This bill looks to make this program much more exclusive and increase the regulatory burden to a point where many sporting camps couldn't apply.

This bill also explicitly and implicitly excludes non-profits from being able to obtain a lodge tag. For what reason, I don't know. We have the same overhead, operation costs and expenses to run these hunts- and we don't charge for them. We not only spend all of the money in rural areas of the state, we spend any money left after expenses on taking more kids in the woods. All of the money we raise with these permits goes directly back into the community, not into our pockets. I say explicitly and implicitly, because this bill is so set on denying us this fundraising tool that it has redundancies built in. You will notice and outright prohibition on non-profits. It also includes a prohibition for "children's camp," requires that the organization be able to collect sales tax and have a caretaker on site or nearby. These are designed to further disenfranchise us from this program. As far as we can tell, our organization is the only non-profit using this lodge tag system so this bill feels unfairly targeted towards us. I would be happy to answer any questions the committee might have.