CONGRESSIONAL
SPORTSMEN'S
FOUNDATION

To: **Hon. Lynda Schlegel Culver**
Chair, Senate Education Committee
501 N. 3rd Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Re: **House Bill 2460 – Hunter and Trapper Education in Schools**

Position: **Support**

Date: **9/9/2026**

Honorable Chair Schlegel Culver, Minority Chair Williams, and members of the Senate Education Committee,

My name is Kaleigh Leager, and I am the Manager, Mid-Atlantic States for the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation (CSF). I respectfully urge you to pass House Bill 2460 (HB 2460). The passage of HB 2460 will make available to each entity a model of age-appropriate hunting and trapping education, including firearm safety instruction, for students in grades six through twelve, which is extremely important in protecting the deep-rooted outdoor heritage in Pennsylvania as well as protecting conservation funding.

Founded in 1989, CSF is the informed authority across outdoor issues and serves as the primary conduit for influencing public policy. Working with the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus (CSC), the Governors Sportsmen's Caucus (GSC), and the National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses (NASC), CSF gives a voice to hunters, anglers, recreational shooters, and trappers on Capitol Hill and throughout state capitols advocating on vital outdoor issues that are the backbone of our nation's conservation legacy.

In a world that is becoming increasingly digitized and distant from nature, opportunities to participate in activities that get young people outdoors are pivotal to ensuring the health and wellbeing of Pennsylvania's youth. Students in grades six through twelve are in very transformative years and providing them with education on hunter safety as well as the role that hunters play in wildlife conservation is essential. Additionally, youth will gain many positive social aspects if they elect to pursue hunting such as life lessons, discipline, responsibility, patience, hard work, and the ability to create lasting bonds and memories with friends and family.

Furthermore, participation in hunting has generally been on the decline for years now. Efforts to bring hunting safety education classes into the classroom would bolster hunter recruitment, retention, and reactivation (R3) efforts. Introduction to hunting and trapping through a controlled and well-developed curriculum is an excellent way to recruit new hunters, trappers, and

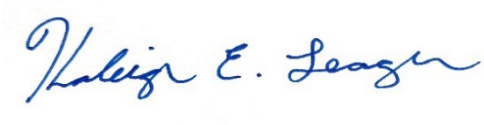
110 North Carolina Ave. SE • Washington, DC 20003 • 202-543-6850 • 202-543-6853 Fax • congressionalsportsmen.org
Federal Tax ID • 52-1686163

simultaneously, conservationists. These efforts are critical to ensuring the future of conservation funding through the "user pays – public benefits" structure of the American System of Conservation Funding.[1] For example, in 2025 alone, Pennsylvania's sportsmen and women generated more than $112 million in conservation funding through the ASCF, which further highlights the importance of ensuring the next generation of conservationists. As today's sportsmen and women age out, they take their critical conservation dollars with them, leaving a funding gap to be filled by the next generation of sportsmen and women.

By implementing hunting and trapping safety education in schools, which includes firearms safety, students will receive instruction and guidance from a certified instructor through the Pennsylvania Game Commission's (PGC) and obtain the knowledge and experience needed to participate in our shared sporting heritage. Upon successful completion of the course, students will be well equipped to get outdoors and participate in our time-honored traditions where they will hopefully spark a passion that will carry with them for the rest of their lives.

In closing, to help conserve Pennsylvania's storied traditions for generations to come, we respectfully urge you to pass House Bill 2460. Thank you for your consideration, and please let me know if you would like additional information.

Sincerely,



Manager, Mid-Atlantic States | Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
110 North Carolina Ave, SE | Washington, DC 20003
kleager@congressionalsportsmen.org | 202-543-6850 X 20

[1] American System of Conservation Funding – Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation