



**THE LEAGUE
OF
HUMANE VOTERS[®]
OF NEW YORK**
POLITICAL ACTION FOR ANIMALS

March 18, 2021

Dear Senator Krueger,

We are asking you to please strike Part X from the Governor's Budget Bill S2508B, and omit any other parts of the many Budget Bills (S2500, S2501, S2502, S2503, S2504, S2505, S2506, S2507, S2509) that have the same purpose as Part X in S2508B. Hiding serious, contentious issues in the budget bill is a disservice to all.

It is disturbing that Part X of Bill S2508B, "expands provisions of law relating to hunting; authorizes a holder of a license who is as young as twelve, thirteen, fourteen or fifteen to hunt wildlife; removes limiting provisions of law related to hunting with a crossbow" has been inserted in the 2021/2022 budget..

LOHV/NY has also written a Memo of Opposition to bills that are currently in the Environmental Conservation Committees that appear to relate to Part X. Bills A3216/S4119, A238/S1721, A1299, S2643, A3550, A4281 propose to lower the hunting age to twelve for big game (deer and bears), allow crossbow hunting starting at 12, and expand the use of crossbows, along with other provisions.

Allowing children as young as 14 years old to hunt with firearms, **including AR-15s and AK-47s modified with reduced capacity magazines to qualify as semi-automatics is certainly questionable, so giving children as young as 12 the license to hunt large animals (deer and bear) is beyond irresponsible.** Putting these loaded weapons in the hands of 12 year olds would put them and anyone near them at risk. I know of no one who would want to be in the vicinity of a 12 year old with a loaded weapon, except for other hunters who know that learning young is the key to the future of hunting and the profits of the firearms and bow and arrow industries.

Ninety-seven percent (97%) of the New York population does not hunt, and the majority of New Yorkers are for sensible gun control as they elected a governor and legislature that support it, too. Yet few people have any idea that this type of bill is even being proposed. **If lowering the driving age to 14 were being considered, it would likely be decided in a ballot measure during a general election. But putting lethal weapons in the hands of 12 year olds could easily be slipped in under the radar. So burying this provision in the budget is an even**

more insidious attempt to deny the public the transparency they deserve. It would unlikely reflect the will of the voters, and would not be the way our democratic process should work.

As per the NY Crossbow Coalition, Budget Bill S2508B “*would ‘Increase hunting opportunities by expanding crossbow season into big game season, and allow junior hunters ages 12-13 to hunt big game with a rifle or shotgun when under the supervision of a parent, guardian, or mentor.’*” www.nycrossbowcoalition.com

Removing restrictions on crossbows adds another dangerous weapon to an already deadly arsenal. Most New Yorkers have no knowledge of this, yet the NY Crossbow Coalition is well aware that when they write: “*the Governor included crossbow language in the State of the State Book.*”

The intention of these laws is beyond providing less than 3% of the NY with a lethal hobby, it is to increase the profits made by the sale of hunting licenses, firearms, ammunition, and bows and arrows. This overrides the very frightening aspect of putting dangerous, lethal weapons in the hands of young children. It targets our beautiful wildlife which is slaughtered and suffers greatly for the sake of this greed. And it is antithetical to sensible gun control and the protection of the public.

LOHV/NY urges you to strike Part X from Budget Bill S2508B !

**SINCERELY,
THE LEAGUE OF HUMANE VOTERS®/NY**

The Mission of the League of Humane Voters® (LOHV®) is to create, unite, and strengthen local political action committees, which work to enact animal-friendly legislation and elect candidates for public office who will use their votes and influence for animal protection.