

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 11, 2023

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,


We write to express our deep concern about the Biden Administration's attempt to use the gun control bill passed last year to block funding for elementary and secondary schools. In April, the U.S. Department of Education provided a guidance prohibiting Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) funds for hunter education and archery programs. Since the guidance was issued, there have been reports of schools canceling plans to include archery or hunting education in their curriculum. We write to urge the administration to immediately reverse this misguided decision and ensure funding for these vital programs is not withheld.

While the administration claims to be eliminating dangerous activities, this guidance will, in fact, have the opposite effect. These programs provided thousands of students with the opportunity to learn proper instruction for firearm and archery safety. Over 500,000 students participate and are certified through hunter education courses each year. Learning to safely handle firearms results in a decrease in firearm related injuries and accidents. In fact, hunter education programs have decreased hunting accidents by over 50% since the program's development over 50 years ago. By including hunter education in schools, students are given the tools to be safe and responsible hunters.

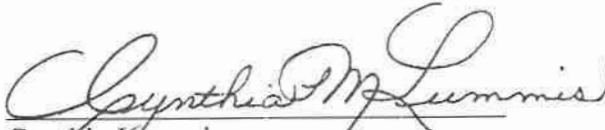
We voted against the gun control legislation. It is now clearer than ever that the Biden Administration will use the bill to attack the constitutional rights of Americans. Hunting and archery are strongly connected to the traditions and heritage of America. This outrageous overreach is an attack on hunters and outdoor recreation that must be addressed.

The Biden Administration's purposeful misinterpretation of the gun control bill is attempting to take away valuable programs from students across the country. Hunter education and archery programs are beneficial to students both in rural and urban areas. We call on the Biden Administration to immediately withdraw the guidance and support these essential programs.

Sincerely



John Barrasso, M.D.
United States Senator



Cynthia Lummis
United States Senator

Cindy Hyde-Smith

Cindy Hyde-Smith
United States Senator

R. W. Marshall

Roger Marshall, M.D.
United States Senator

Roger Wicker

Roger Wicker
United States Senator

Rick Scott

Rick Scott
United States Senator

Steve Daines

Steve Daines
United States Senator

Deb Fischer

Deb Fischer
United States Senator

Ted Cruz

Ted Cruz
United States Senator

Mike Crapo

Mike Crapo
United States Senator

Marsha Blackburn

Marsha Blackburn
United States Senator

John Thune

John Thune
United States Senator

John Kennedy

John Kennedy
United States Senator

James Risch

James Risch
United States Senator

Dan Sullivan

Dan Sullivan
United States Senator

Mike Braun

Mike Braun
United States Senator

Rand Paul

Rand Paul
United States Senator

Josh Hawley

Josh Hawley
United States Senator

Mike Lee

Mike Lee
United States Senator