



November 15, 2023

Senator Sue Shink
Post Office Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909-7536

Dear Chair Shink and Honorable Members of the Natural Resources & Agricultural Committee:

On behalf of Safari Club International (SCI), I write in support of Senate Bill 664 which is a bipartisan bill that would create an elective program for Michigan school districts to host hunter and firearms safety programs within their schools.

SCI is dedicated to protecting the freedom to hunt and promoting wildlife conservation worldwide. Our members, in Michigan and beyond, are dedicated conservationists who understand the importance of instilling hunting and firearm safety for all people who go afield and support providing safe, controlled opportunities for those who wish to learn more.

Importantly, this proposed legislation is supported by the Michigan Department of Education and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

These courses would be one of many optional electives for sixth to twelfth grade students, and they would also provide a structured environment for Michigan students to learn about our abundant natural resources, how hunting and shooting sports funds conservation, hunting and firearm instruction from trained hunter education instructors. In addition, hunter's safety education credit would be given to students who complete the course. For the elections, real firearms nor live ammunition would be allowed into schools or onto school property.

Please support this bipartisan legislation that would benefit Michigan's children by safely teaching them about Michigan's strong outdoor tradition and heritage in a controlled environment as well as creating new educational opportunities for students who may not have the access to learn about hunting and firearm safety.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

Sincerely,

W. Laird Hamberlin
CEO – Safari Club International/Foundation

CC: Sen. Jon Bumstead