



TERRY MOULTON



WISCONSIN STATE SENATOR

23RD SENATE DISTRICT

From: Senator Terry Moulton
To: Senate Committee on Sporting Heritage, Mining and Forestry
Re: Testimony on Senate Bill 372
Relating to: hunting approvals issued to certain terminally ill individuals.
Date: November 28, 2017

Mr. Chairman and committee members, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony today about Senate Bill 372 and providing terminally ill patients from other states the chance to hunt in Wisconsin.

Many of us are hunters and we know well the joy found experiencing the great outdoors while hunting in our beautiful state. Even better than that is seeing that joy reflected on the face of someone out in the woods for the first time. Passing this legacy down to our kids and other individuals who have never had a chance to experience that joy is what makes the sporting heritage in our state so great.

Senate Bill 372 gives us the opportunity to continue sharing our rich heritage by allowing terminally ill patients who are sponsored by charitable organizations to receive free licenses and permits for hunting, fishing and trapping. Charitable organizations pay for these hunting trips and licenses, so by providing licenses and permits at no charge gives the organizations more chances to offer this experience to more terminally ill patients who have always wanted to participate.

This bill was brought to us by the United Special Sportsman Alliance, Inc., a group that helps terminally ill patients, disabled youth and disabled veterans to fulfill a wish to go outdoors and participate in sporting activities. This group helped us put together our Teach Kids How to Fish event for the Sportsmen Caucus. On their website, you can see many testimonials, including one from a young girl named Shannon. She wrote, "I had a great time on the fishing trip. Now I can say I know how to fish. It was great just being around everyone and not have to worry about cancer." This letter to the organization is one of many examples why allowing a small number of worthy recipients to receive their hunting and fishing licenses at no cost is a good idea.

This bill is supported by the Safari Club, Wisconsin Bear Hunters Association and the Wisconsin Game Preserve Association. We do not know of anyone who is opposed to this bill.

Please vote in favor of Senate Bill 372 and make it easier for terminally ill patients from outside Wisconsin to hunt in our beautiful state. I think we can all agree that helping those whose days may be short experience our rich sporting heritage is a worthwhile endeavor. Thank you again for allowing me to submit testimony today.

Serving the 23rd Senate District