

RESOLUTION

To urge and request Louisiana’s Congressional Delegation to Compel the U.S. Department of Education to Reverse its Decision to Restrict Federal Funding to Schools Implementing Hunter Education and Archery in Louisiana Schools (ALAS) in the 2022 Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA)

**Adopted by the
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission
September 7, 2023**

- WHEREAS, La. R.S. 56:699 et seq. authorizes the Commission to regulate Firearm and Hunter Education; and
- WHEREAS, the Commission has adopted rules to regulate firearm and hunter education, which establish minimum requirements for certification of students and instructor qualifications, provide for classroom and computer based hunter education courses, and penalties for violations; and
- WHEREAS, Louisiana law requires all persons born on or after September 1, 1969 to have a certificate of completion of a firearm and hunter education course approved by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries in order to hunt without restrictions; and
- WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the Louisiana Hunter Education Program within the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to educate the public on Hunter Education; and, wildlife and habitat conservation; and
- WHEREAS, Louisiana Hunter Education courses in Louisiana schools teach students safe firearm handling, safe firearm storage, hunting safety, wildlife management principles, hunter ethics, game identification, outdoor survival, and conservation; and
- WHEREAS, Archery in Louisiana Schools (ALAS) not only teaches students archery, but also critical life skills by learning the ability to handle pressure, deal with success and failure, and encourages sportsmanship, teamwork, and student ethics; and
- WHEREAS, participation in the ALAS program and other school affiliated shooting sports builds self-confidence and is an all-inclusive activity regardless of student ability, gender, or race; a place of belonging for these Louisiana students; and
- WHEREAS, in 2019, the Louisiana Legislature passed House Concurrent Resolution No. 65 which urges and requests the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to work with the Department of Education and the Louisiana School Boards Association to provide Hunter Education as a physical education elective in the public high schools; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries hereby urges and requests Louisiana's Congressional Delegation to compel the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) to reverse its guidance on withholding funds from schools with hunter education and archery programs in their curriculum and that the United States Congress correct the ambiguous language in the 2022 Bipartisan Safer Communities Act that could prevent federal funds from supporting schools that provide Hunter Education and Archery in Louisiana School (ALAS) programs in hundreds of schools in Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to U.S. Senators John Kennedy and Bill Cassidy, and to U.S. Representatives Steve Scalise, Troy Carter, Clay Higgins, Mike Johnson, Julia Letlow and Garret Graves.

Andrew J. Blanchard, Chairman
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission