



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

March 28, 2021

Dear Governor Cuomo,

Joined by numerous like-minded organizations and our many supporters who have reached out to their representatives in the New York State Legislature, the League of Humane Voters®/NY requests that Part X be removed from Budget Bill S2508B along with related content from the nine other Budget Bills. Part X reads: expands provisions of law relating to hunting; authorizes a holder of a license who is twelve, thirteen, fourteen or fifteen to hunt wildlife; removes limiting provisions of law related to hunting with a crossbow (Part X)

Lowering the big game hunting age to twelve is contrary to your excellent advocacy for “common sense” gun laws for which we applaud you, and therefore urge you to reconsider Part X in light of the following implications: **It’s well-known by the Bureau of Wildlife that although semi-automatic rifles -- AR-15s and modified AK-47s – can legally be used for small-game hunting, they are primarily used for killing “big game” (deer and bears). We fear that lowering the hunting age would incentivize the purchase of these alarming and lethal weapons for youngsters at a time when the country is seeking ways to ban them for the risk they pose to the public.** Regrettably, even when modified, semi-automatic rifles are still allowed five bullets in the magazine and one in the chamber, thus five bullets can be shot out in quick succession with ease, posing even an inadvertent risk to the public.

Part X would also allow 12 and 13 year olds the legal use of popular crossbows upon paying for a muzzleloader permit. Clearly, the combination of lowering the hunting age *and* allowing 12 and 13 year olds to use crossbows will increase hunting permit sales and result in a larger apportionment to NY’s game bureau from the federal excise tax on firearms, ammunition, and bows and arrows. **At the same time, Part X will cause lethal weapons to proliferate within a young population, result in potential harm to the public, and increase the suffering of wildlife.** For these reasons, we oppose the expansion of crossbows for 12 and 13 year olds.

We believe New York needs to move away from its longtime and growing dependence on revenues from excise taxes on firearms, ammunition, and bows and arrows as they become greater threats to society.

Governor Cuomo, we urge you to take the bold step of removing Part X from Budget Bill S2508B, and look forward to hearing from you on this vital matter that affects the lives of all New Yorkers and our cherished wildlife.

Sincerely,
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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.