

Chair Kirk, Vice Chair Lear, Ranking member Rogers, and members of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Joint Resolution number 5.

At a very young age, my dad started taking me out hunting with him. My brother and I would take turns with who got to go out with my dad. We used to walk right out back through the woods behind our house onto my grandfathers' property. My dad would have to constantly remind us to watch where we walked and to stay quiet walking through the woods so we wouldn't scare off the wildlife. When we got to the spot where we were hunting, I would try to sit there quietly and watch for deer or squirrels depending on what we were hunting. So at that young age, I always looked forward to spending that one on one father/son time together.

When my brother and I got older, my dad would take us out back to target practice. He taught us proper gun safety such as: to always make sure the safety was on; finger off the trigger; and the gun should always be pointed in a safe direction.

When I turned 12 years old, I finally got to take my Hunting Safety course and get my Hunting License.

From that point on, any chance we got we would go out hunting: From those all day long rabbit and pheasant hunts where we used to walk field after field hoping our dog would find something for us to shoot; the all day long hunts where we got to go out of town with my dad's friends and their kids; to freezing in the winter time while out deer hunting. All of those memories were made while being able to bond with my dad and brother.

My dad taught us responsibility, respect, safety and many more things growing up and while going out hunting. For those reasons I want to guarantee future generations of children the same moments with their parents and family members.

I would like to thank Chair Kirk, Vice Chair Lear, Ranking Member Rogers and members of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee for allowing me to speak in support of House Joint Resolution number 5. I am ready to answer any questions that you may have.