

Arthur DINGLEY  
Auburn  
LD 22

To: the Honorable Chairs of the Joint Standing Committee, Senator Beebe-Center and Representative Salisbury, and members of the Committee.

Re: Written testimony in opposition to LD 22 SP0014 and LD 168

My name is Arthur Dingley. I am a former attorney and retired physician. I am a lifelong resident of Maine. I live in Auburn.

LD 22 revisits the "gun show loophole" as, I assume, a well-intentioned effort to minimize gun violence. Whether Maine has an increasing problem with gun violence is entirely unclear. It is at least unlikely. Whether there are any instances of violent criminals buying firearms at gun shows in Maine is so unlikely as to be laughable.

The trouble with such State-level laws is that they simultaneously do nothing to decrease crime and convey they idea that we HAVE done something. We MUST, as a nation, take on the tidal wave of gun violence. Legislation truly intended to keep guns out of the hands of prohibited persons would (1) be federal, (2) apply to EVERYONE, not just gun-show sellers, (3) make the FBI

"no buy" list available 24-7 online, (4) require anyone transferring a firearm to any other person query the FBI list and retain proof of a "proceed" decision before transfer, and (5) be entirely free of charge.

Please. Stop this incessant picking away around the edges of a colossal social problem. It unfairly burdens law-abiding Maine citizens and accomplishes nothing beyond a self-righteous pat on the back. There is a national plague of gun violence requiring a national response. You are voters and constituents as well as elected representatives of the people. Join me in demanding that Maine's federal Congressional delegation lead the way by sponsoring legislation made applicable to all with a mechanism available to all.

Thank you for considering these remarks.