

April 3, 2023

Testimony in Opposition to LD 168

An Act Regarding Criminal Background Checks for the Sale, Transfer or Exchange of Firearms

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Salisbury, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety:

My name is Nathan Gould. I am from Winterport. I am giving this testimony in opposition to LD 168, "An Act Regarding Criminal Background Checks for the Sale, Transfer or Exchange of Firearms."

Regrettably, this is yet another bill that assumes law abiding citizens are guilty until proven innocent. Our natural rights are given by God, as the Founders of our Country and our State understood, not by men, and the right of an individual to protect themselves and their families is an intrinsic one.

It is a sad state of affairs when it is a government's policy to view the citizens with distrust, to place restrictions on rights that government was instituted to defend, not grant. This will be repeated numerous times today, but considering the amount of legislation averse to the Second Amendment that has come before you just in the 131st Legislature, just at this public hearing, the following reminder is needed: the Second Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America states "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed." Article I, Section 16 of the Constitution of the State of Maine states "Every citizen has a right to keep and bear arms and this right shall never be questioned."

It is made clear in these fundamental documents, and it is further clarified by the Supreme Court's decision on *District of Columbia v. Heller* in 2008.

I ask the distinguished members of the Committee to uphold their oaths to our Federal and State Constitutions. I ask the Committee to vote Ought Not to Pass, and I thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Nathan C Gould

Winterport