

Steven Eagles
DRESDEN
LD 1557

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In opposition to LD 1557

Good afternoon Senator Harrington and Rep Andrews and hard working members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee.

My name is Steve Eagles and I ask that you vote not to pass LD 1557, An act to allow individuals with Concealed Carry Permits to Possess Handguns on School Property. All 3 of my children attended public school in Richmond, K-12 and I did NOT fear for their safety when NO firearms were permitted on school grounds. I would have feared for their safety had I known that firearms were permitted on school grounds. There is no way to guarantee that a firearm will not get into the wrong hands or that it may be discharged in error and haste.

I am also a long term Unitarian Universalist and am active in our denominational political action arm known as Maine Unitarian- Universalist State Advocacy Network. As a believer in the democratic process and the power of Love, we do not believe that problems can be solved by the use of force. Recent events have shown the futility of trained and armed police being available at schools. Some situations the armed person fled when an armed person arrived, in another instance there were armed and trained individuals who stood outside a classroom while shots were being fired. Please do not believe that a committed and potentially deranged shooter can be stopped by having armed people on site.

I believe that, on occasion, a trained professional law enforcement official has mistakenly shot an innocent people and I believe that is a much higher risk than a potential shooter entering Maine public schools.

Thank you for you work,
Steven Eagles