

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION

11250 WAPLES MILL ROAD

FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22030



NRA

April 26, 2023

Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

100 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, and Honorable Members of the Committee:

I am writing to you regarding Legislative Document 1557 (LD 1557), an act to increase and enhance school safety by allowing individuals with concealed carry permits to possess handguns on school property. On behalf of the National Rifle Association, I would like to express our support for this bill.

LD 1557 enhances school safety by eliminating “gun-free zones” at Maine schools by allowing concealed carry permit holders to carry handguns on public school property or the property of an approved private school. Gun-free zones do nothing but disarm law-abiding citizens and create soft targets for violent criminals. Currently, Maine law prohibits teachers, administrators, staff, and parents from possessing a firearm on campus. This bill changes that to allow these law-abiding citizens to protect themselves and their children during regular school hours and during extracurricular activities. Most importantly, this bill would deter violent criminals from targeting Maine schools.

When seconds count, police are often minutes away. Having capable guardians present with the proper tools is proven to prevent violent crime. On behalf of the thousands of NRA members in Maine, I respectfully urge the committee to support this legislation. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have additional questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Justin E. Davis

State Director, NRA-ILA