



Gun Owners of Maine

**"Every citizen has a right to keep and bear arms,
and this right shall never be questioned."**

Maine State Constitution - Article 1, Section 16

www.gunownersofmaine.org

In Regard to:

**LD 52: An Act To Allow Certain School Employees
To Carry Firearms On School Property**

LD 518: AN Act To Allow Armed Security In School

**LD 1557: An Act to Increase and Enhance School Safety by Allowing Individuals with Concealed
Carry Permits to Possess Handguns on School Property**

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, Members of the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs:

My name is Laura Parker. I am the President of Gun Owners of Maine and am submitting testimony on behalf of our Board of Directors, and our members who are unable to submit testimony on these proposed bills.

We stand together in full support of LD's 52, 518, and 1557, because we know that Gun Free Zones of any type do nothing to keep Maine's children safe.

Maine schoolchildren deserve to have the same protection they are entitled to in nearly every other area of their lives. On average, Maine children in public schools spend upward of 30 hours a week in a Gun Free Zone, making them prime targets for violence, because criminals know that they will be met with very little initial resistance should they attack a school.

Regarding LD 52: The language of the proposed bill is important. It allows a school board to establish the program if it so chooses. School employees have a choice to participate, or not.

Regarding LD 518: Again, the language of the proposed bill is important. School districts may employ, may engage, may establish. Nothing in this bill requires any school district to take any new action while leaving those districts that do want to increase their security the ability to do so.

Regarding LD 1557: All Maine residents who have a permit to carry a concealed handgun have undergone training and background checks. Their addition to a school zone would increase the safety of Maine's school children attending public school by decreasing the response time of armed help in the case of an active shooter.

I welcome any questions you may have, they can be directed to my email address as noted below.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Laura B. Parker, President

laura@gunownersofmaine.org