



GUN OWNERS OF MAINE

DEFENDING GUN RIGHTS

Regarding LD 2237: An Act to Strengthen Public Safety, Health and Well-being by Expanding Services and Coordinating Violence Prevention Resources

On behalf of our membership, we wish to convey our concerns regarding specific portions of this proposed legislation.

First, LD 2237 seeks to create an Office of Violence Prevention within the Maine CDC. These offices have shown that they are largely created and staffed by anti-gun advocates who use this power to restrict the rights of law-abiding gun owners. This is most evident through data collection efforts which distort the benefits of firearm ownership, largely because the reported use of firearms for self-defense are underreported. We oppose efforts to use Maine taxpayer dollars to fund biased statistics to push for the restriction of Mainers' rights.

Secondly, the implementation of a statewide alerting system that alerts FFL's (Federal Firearms Licenses) of individuals in a "mental health crisis" ignores basic privacy, and risks gun owners not seeking help out of fear that they end up being a prohibited person if a statewide alert goes out. Notifying businesses of an individual's medical history is deeply concerning and we believe cannot be done without violating well-established privacy laws.

Should you have any questions regarding these aspects of this proposed legislation, please do not hesitate to ask.

On behalf of our membership and the Gun Owners of Maine Board of Directors,

Laura Whitcomb, President
Gun Owners of Maine
laura@gunownersofmaine.org
(207) 649-2677