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LD 2224

I am writing to express my opposition to LD 2224 an act to strengthen public safety by improving Maine's firearm laws and mental health system. This bill uses the vague term "recklessly" with respect to a firearm sale. This is a subjective term which is undefined and therefore open to abuse. LD 2224 also raises the penalty to a class C felony for violating the conditions for selling a firearm. It has never been necessary in the entire history of the State of Maine to charge a person with a felony for the act of selling their property but now it is proposed that this penalty will be part of the solution to fighting crime. LD 2224 also allows what it calls "reasonable fees" to be charged for the very background checks that this bill claims to be a solution to gun violence. Why doesn't the State of Maine pay for the background check fees if the background checks are actually valuable? Is there any other civil right that first requires a person to pay a government mandated fee before they can exercise it? Except for the mental health aspects of LD 2224, the new firearm regulations proposed will do little to prevent crime while imposing the threat of a felony charge and the imposition of an unconstitutional unfunded mandate to accessing a civil right. LD 2224 ought not to pass.