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March 23, 2025

Testimony in Opposition of LD 424 “An Act Concerning the Concealed Carrying of a Handgun by and Individual Who is 18 Years of Age but Under 21 Years of Age”

To: Sen. Carney, Rep. Kuhn, and Members of the Committee,

I am in opposition to LD 424 because guns are the leading cause of death for 18-20 year olds and 18 to 20 year olds commit gun homicides at triple the rate of adults who are 21 and older (<https://everytownresearch.org/rankings/law/minimum-age-to-purchase/>). And this legislation seeks to allow an 18 year old to carry a loaded firearm without any training or adult supervision. It defies common sense. And I cannot think of a rational reason why they would need to do so.

In our family, our children and grandchildren learn to use firearms, and should they choose to hunt, take part in gun safety courses, consistent with Maine law. Not all families in Maine share this approach to gun education.

For the safety of our youth and others, **oppose LD 424.**

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of LD 424 in your efforts to ensure the safety of all people in Maine.

Respectfully submitted,

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