

March 24, 2025

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and members of the committee:

My name is Michelle Fortier-Oosterman and I live in Lyman, Maine. I am a recently retired school social worker and LCSW in the State of Maine.

In the matter of LD 829, An Act to Standardize the Laws Regarding the carrying of Concealed Handguns in State Parks, I stand opposed.

This bill will remove the requirement that person have a valid permit in order to carry a concealed handgun in state parks. My adult daughter works summers in a state park. I take my elderly mother to state parks. Permits protect all of us and allow us to enjoy our State's beauty safely by requiring that the applicant establish both "good moral character" and a knowledge of handgun safety.

As lawmakers, it is your job to create laws that promote safety of all citizens. Please continue to close loopholes used to impede gun safety and citizen safety. Please continue to oppose the use of weapons primarily used to take human life in our communities.

Thank you for your consideration and time on this vital safety issue.

Sincerely,

Michelle Fortier-Oosterman, LCSW