

Michelle Fortier-Oosterman  
Lyman  
LD 998

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 998, An Act Regarding an Employer's Authority to Prohibit an Employee from Storing a Firearm in the Employee's Vehicle, I stand opposed.

Current law already forbids employers from prohibiting an employee from storing a firearm in their vehicle if the employee has a valid permit to carry a concealed firearm, as long as the vehicle is locked and the firearm is stored out of sight. This bill would remove the requirement of a permit, a vital protection by providing a statement of "good moral character" and a knowledge of handgun safety. As a school employee, I experienced our community police officers warning us that there were increases in car break ins and not to keep valuables in our cars. This law clearly decreases community 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