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LD 998

I write in strong support of LD 998, which ensures that individuals legally permitted to possess firearms in Maine can securely store them in their locked, privately owned vehicles while on employer-owned or leased property.

Maine law allows law-abiding adults to carry firearms either openly or concealed, with or without a permit. LD 998 upholds this right by allowing individuals to store firearms in their vehicles, provided they remain locked and out of sight. This measure strikes a reasonable balance: it protects individual rights while still allowing employers to regulate firearm possession within their facilities.

Preventing lawful firearm owners from securing their firearms in their vehicles creates unnecessary hardships. It forces individuals to either leave their firearms at home—effectively disarming them during commutes and travel—or risk violating workplace policies. This bill eliminates that dilemma while maintaining security and privacy.

Importantly, LD 998 does not permit carrying firearms into workplaces or areas where they are legally prohibited. It simply ensures that responsible firearm owners can exercise their rights without conflicting with employer policies. Similar protections exist in numerous other states, reflecting a nationwide recognition of the importance of firearm security in personal vehicles.

Maine has long upheld the principles of constitutional carry and personal liberty. LD 998 is a logical extension of those values, ensuring that responsible gun owners are not unduly restricted. I urge the committee to support and pass this bill to protect the rights and safety of Maine citizens.