

Peter Gallo  
Bar Harbor  
LD 1049

To the esteemed members of the Judiciary Committee,

I'm writing in strong support of LD 1049, which would eliminate the requirement that law-abiding citizens immediately inform law enforcement officers that they are carrying a concealed handgun without a permit.

This mandate may seem straightforward in theory, but in practice it places law-abiding citizens in unnecessary danger. We know that not all officers are trained equally—or even adequately—on how to handle situations involving legally armed civilians. A simple disclosure can escalate a routine traffic stop into a volatile, high-stress situation. Citizens who are complying with the law shouldn't have to gamble with their safety because an officer might overreact or panic at the mention of a firearm.

The tragic reality is that officers are often conditioned to view the presence of any gun—even a legal one—as a threat. Informing an officer of a legally carried firearm can lead to drawn weapons, confusion, and unnecessary confrontation, especially in rural or understaffed departments where training is inconsistent.

Meanwhile, criminals—by definition—do not follow this law. They will not inform officers of the illegal guns they are carrying. The duty to inform therefore only applies to people who are trying to do the right thing. It's a law that puts honest people in jeopardy while doing nothing to improve public safety.

This legislation is about restoring balance, reducing risk during law enforcement encounters, and respecting the rights of Mainers who legally carry. Repealing the duty to inform is a commonsense reform that aligns with the spirit of permitless carry and ensures that citizens aren't placed in dangerous situations for simply exercising a constitutional right.

I respectfully urge the committee to vote Ought to Pass on LD 1049.

Thank you.