

David Souers
Friendship
LD 829

LD 829 An Act to Standardize the Laws Regarding the Carrying of Concealed Handguns in State Parks

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, Members of the committee, I am David Souers. I live in Friendship, Maine. I am a retired healthcare facility architect from a family that owned, collected and used firearms as a hobby, and for recreation, target practice, hunting and protecting our agriculture from certain wildlife, in compliance with a variety of laws protecting ourselves and others for the types of firearms, locations and use.

I am testifying in opposition to LD 829.

It appears that the current state law requires a state permit to carry a concealed "firearm" is standard throughout all state parks, Baxter State Park, the Allagash Wilderness Waterway and Acadia National Park. What is not "standardized" here.

As a resident citizen of the State of Maine, I would prefer to go into and enjoy any and every park in the State of Maine with my family, unarmed and without the worry that people are carrying weapons. The unarmed visitors, residents and citizens of Maine have absolutely no advocates nor protections for a gun free environment in most of Maine. We cannot go out in public without facing or fearing a person with a firearm, who is potentially accident prone, fearful of us, mentally unstable or aggressive and violent. The gun industry and gun culture believing it should have unrestricted rights without respecting and protecting the rights of the unarmed has gotten out of hand and perverted by any standards evident in the past generations where my father and grandfather were required to have handgun permits without complaint.

Maintaining the existing permit requirements in our parks is the very least restriction for gun owners and a bare minimum protection for a gun safe public recreation area for our predominantly unarmed public. The predominantly unarmed public should have more protections not less. With every proposed law like this gun owners are not asking to preserve rights, rather they are taking away our rights, the rights of those who are not gun owners, and the rights of those who prefer not to carry guns wherever they go in Maine.

I advocate that this LD 829 ought not to pass.