

Good day, my name is Danil Shirnin. I am a resident of Lewiston and I am speaking out in support of LD 998.

LD 998 is a perfectly reasonable expansion upon existing rights of Mainer's constitutional carry rights within the state of Maine.

Since 2015 the people of Maine have been able to carry and own firearms without a permit. Since the passage of the constitutional carry Maine has steadily remained high on the list of the country's safest states. The people of Maine have proven time and time again that they are among the most responsible and safe owners of firearms in the country. As such, it is not at all irresponsible or unreasonable to adjust our existing laws to allow Mainers to carry and keep their firearms securely in their vehicles on the premises of their workplaces without a permit.

Mainers safely carry and possess firearms without a permit every day throughout the state. The same Mainers also keep those weapons on their person in their vehicles when they travel. Any reasonable and responsible gun owner in Maine knows and understands to keep their vehicle secured if they need to stow a weapon in their car without their presence, and adjusting our current laws merely reflects that. It is nonsensical for private employers to demand their employees possess a permit to possess a firearm when it has already been established that they have a natural right to carry and possess a firearm without a permit anywhere else (government buildings and certain public locations excluded). The removal of the permit requirement would not in any way compromise the safety of other people as it already makes no difference under our current laws. I would argue that keeping the statutes that require gun owners to keep their vehicles locked and the gun out of sight are far more important and thankfully those are staying in place. As such this law must pass not only because it will not in any way compromise

the safety of the people of Maine, but also help streamline our already established laws that protect and guarantee the right of Mainers to carry and own firearms without a permit.

Thank you.