



Maine Gun Safety Coalition Testimony in OPPOSITION to LD 424 - An Act Concerning the Concealed Carrying of a Handgun by an Individual Who Is 18 Years of Age but Under 21 Years of Age (Rep. Collins)

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and esteemed members of the committee, my name is Nacole Palmer. I live in Bowdoin, and I serve as the executive director of the Maine Gun Safety Coalition.

On behalf of the thousands of Mainers our organization represents, and the more than 70 organizations who are part of our coalition, I ask you to oppose LD 424, a bill that seeks to lower the age of concealed carry in Maine from 21 to 18 years old.

I assume you are all aware of the crisis of firearm crimes and shootings that are ravaging communities in our cities, especially Lewiston. A recent SUN Journal article¹ made clear two points that are very relevant to LD 424, the bill that seeks to lower the age for permitless carry of concealed weapons from 21 to 18 years old:

1. The year that Maine stopped requiring permits for concealed carry, firearm homicides in Lewiston began to rise. In 2015, before permitless concealed carry was passed, Lewiston had 3 shootings over the course of a year. In 2022, there were 42 shootings over the course of the year. The article describes how people are afraid to leave their homes or let their children play outside in Lewiston, Maine because the shootings are so common now.
2. The other point that the article makes is that in 49% of these shootings, the shooters are younger than 21 years old.

With a crisis of this magnitude on the streets of our great state, lowering the age of requiring permits for concealed carry would add gas to the fire. It would mean even

¹ <https://www.sunjournal.com/2025/02/15/as-shootings-become-part-of-the-backdrop-of-lewiston-the-city-is-trying-to-come-to-grips-with-a-growing-problem/?uuid=66b739fc-0055-4c1f-9e60-8be24f9d11fe&lid=27127>

more shootings among 18 to 20 year olds, for whom firearms are already the leading cause of death². This bill is a terrible idea for Maine that would make our young people less safe, and we urge you to vote Ought Not To Pass on LD 424.

² <https://wonder.cdc.gov/controller/saved/D158/D428F583>