



*Maine Gun Safety Coalition Testimony in OPPOSITION to LD 829 - An Act to Standardize the Laws Regarding the Carrying of Concealed Handguns in State Parks (Sen. Haggan)*

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.

I respectfully urge you to vote Ought Not To Pass on LD 829. This bill shares the idea that the concealed carry of firearms should have no restrictions whatsoever, regardless of location, age of the carrier, and most importantly of all, regardless of the danger to our communities and the horrible bloodshed that unfettered access to firearms has already caused in Maine.

Given the increase in firearm violence that our state has seen due to the 2015 passage of permitless carry<sup>1</sup>, our organization and the thousands of Mainers we represent strongly oppose removing the requirement of a permit to carry firearms in our state parks and Baxter State Park, the Allagash Wilderness Waterway and Acadia National Park. Maine's state and national parks are some of the most cherished places in our state, with sights and experiences that draw people from all over the world.

Requiring a permit is not much to ask of firearm owners. The permit gives a modicum of safety and comfort, knowing that these people, at least, have had to establish both "good moral character" and a knowledge of handgun safety. Surely these are prerequisites that we can agree are necessary to help keep park employees and visitors safe from firearm violence in these most cherished of places.

I urge you to vote Ought Not to Pass on LD 829. Thank you for your time.

---

<sup>1</sup> <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>