



Maine Gun Safety Coalition Testimony in OPPOSITION to LD 998 - An Act Regarding an Employer's Authority to Prohibit an Employee from Storing a Firearm in the Employee's Vehicle (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.

I urge you to oppose LD 998. Like several other bills introduced this session, this bill seeks to remove any restrictions whatsoever on the concealed carry of firearms regardless of location, regardless of the age of the carrier, and most importantly of all, regardless of the literal danger to our law enforcement and to our communities that unfettered access to firearms has already caused in Maine.

There are numerous reasons to oppose this dangerous bill. The chamber of commerce spoke convincingly about the need for employers to have the modicum of safety that the current law implies, on land that they own, to protect themselves and their employees from danger.

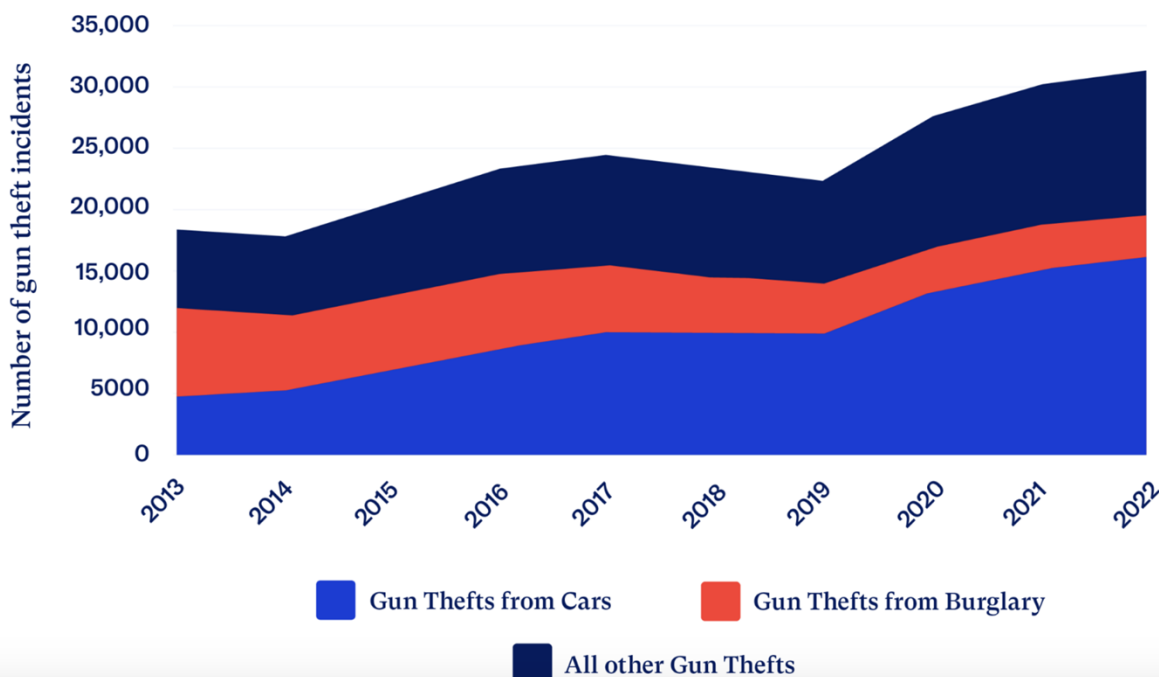
I would also like to bring to your attention the large and growing crisis of stolen guns from cars. Gun thefts from cars are the largest source of stolen guns¹, and the majority of gun homicides and assaults involve stolen or illegal guns.² The rate of gun thefts

¹ Everytown Research analysis of [FBI NIBRS](#) data of 159 cities, 2013–2022, and [ACS population data](#), 2013–2022, accessed January 2024.

² Anthony Fabio et al., "Gaps Continue in Firearm Surveillance: Evidence from a Large U.S. City Bureau of Police," *Social Medicine* 10, no. 1 (2016): 13–21, <https://socialmedicine.info/index.php/socialmedicine/article/view/852>; Daniel C. Semenza et al., "Firearm Availability, Homicide, and the Context of Structural Disadvantage," *Homicide Studies* (September 2021): 1–21, <https://doi.org/10.1177/10887679211043806>.

from cars is triple what it was a decade ago.³ This includes both consistent increases nearly every year over the last decade and a marked spike during the pandemic.

A DECADE AGO, A QUARTER OF GUN THEFTS WERE FROM CARS. IN 2022, OVER HALF WERE.



Prohibiting business owners from asking their employees to not keep firearms in their vehicles while at work unless they have the modicum of protection that a permit provides endangers employers and employees and allows the continued proliferation of firearms into the illegal weapons market, firearms that have and will be used in violent crimes in Maine and across the country.

To keep our state safe, I respectfully urge the Committee to vote Ought Not To Pass on LD 998.

³ Everytown Research analysis of [FBI NIBRS](#) data of 159 cities, 2013–2022, and [ACS population data](#), 2013–2022, accessed January 2024.