

Anne M. Gallaudet
Scarborough, Maine

April 16, 2025

Re: LD 1062: An Act to Eliminate Background Checks for Private Sales of Firearms

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee.

I appreciate this opportunity to address you on this important matter. My name is Anne Gallaudet. I am a resident of Scarborough, Maine. I am writing in opposition to LD 1062.

This bill modifies Maine's existing firearms background check law by significantly narrowing its scope. Specifically, the bill eliminates background check requirements for most private firearm sales and restricts background checks to only transactions that occur at gun shows. The bill removes previous language requiring dealers to notify sellers if a buyer is prohibited from purchasing a firearm and eliminates provisions permitting dealers to charge a fee for facilitating such transactions. In sum, these proposed modifications facilitate individuals buying and selling firearms without going through a comprehensive background check process.

Until the passage of Maine's existing law on background checks for firearm sales, people who were not allowed firearms could avoid detection and obtain the firearms. Requiring background checks in private gun sales helps ensure firearms are not sold to people legally prohibited from owning them, thus reducing violence through use of firearms (e.g., suicides, domestic violence, homicides). Background checks help prevent sales to prohibited persons such as domestic violence perpetrators, convicted felons, and individuals with certain mental health issues.

There is no sensible reason from a safety perspective for modifying Maine's current law. I urge you to vote "Ought Not to Pass" on LD 1062.

Anne Gallaudet,
Scarborough, ME