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LD 1062

Chairpersons and Members of the Committee,

My name is Dana Hunnewell, and I am a resident of Bingham, Maine. I am writing today in strong support of the bill that removes the background check requirement for private firearm sales.

Under current Maine law, a background check is only required for a private sale of a firearm if the sale was advertised. This creates a confusing and inconsistent legal standard—two citizens engaged in an identical private transaction are treated differently simply based on whether or not the firearm was listed online or in some other public forum. This arbitrary distinction does not increase public safety, but it does create unnecessary legal pitfalls for responsible gun owners.

The current law also does nothing to stop individuals who intend to break the law. Criminals do not submit to background checks, and they do not conduct their transactions through advertised channels. What this law does, however, is burden law-abiding Mainers with extra costs, travel, and bureaucracy—particularly in rural areas where access to licensed dealers is limited.

We should not be criminalizing traditional, peaceful behavior that has existed safely in Maine for generations. Mainers have long engaged in private firearm sales responsibly—between friends, family members, neighbors—without issue. This bill simply restores that right by treating all private sales equally and trusting citizens to exercise their Second Amendment rights without excessive government interference.

I urge the committee to pass this bill and remove the flawed and confusing language that currently governs private firearm sales. Let's return to a clear, fair, and freedom-respecting policy.

Thank you for your time and your service to our state.