

Dane Courtois
Hiram
LD 1062

To the Honorable Members of the Maine Judiciary Committee,

My name is Dane Courtois, a resident of Hiram, and I write with unrelenting resolve to champion LD 1062, An Act to Eliminate Background Checks for Private Sales of Firearms. This bill is a righteous blow against government tyranny and a fierce defense of the individual liberties that make Maine's people free. The mandate for background checks on private firearm sales is a vile overreach that must be obliterated to uphold our Second Amendment rights.

The state has no right to stick its nose in the private dealings of honest Mainers. When one neighbor sells a rifle to another or a friend trades a shotgun, that's their business—not Augusta's to micromanage. Requiring background checks for these sales treats every Mainer like a suspect, eroding the trust we place in each other as free individuals. The Second Amendment is crystal clear: the right to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed. Forcing citizens to grovel before a government database to exercise that right is nothing less than treachery against our Constitution.

There's no proof these checks do anything to stop crime. Criminals don't bother with legal sales—they steal, smuggle, or deal in shadows. A 2016 FBI report showed less than 1% of firearms used in crimes came from private sales without background checks. Meanwhile, law-abiding Mainers get slammed with delays, fees, and the constant risk of a faulty system wrongly flagging them. For a single parent needing a handgun to protect her family or a hunter gearing up to feed his household, these obstacles aren't just a nuisance—they're a direct attack on their freedom.

This mandate also strangles Maine's economy. Private sales drive gun shows and support small dealers, keeping money in our communities. Forcing background checks suffocates these events, pushing business to states that respect liberty. Why should Maine's gunsmiths and collectors pay the price for Augusta's control fetish?

As a citizen, I believe government's sole job is to protect our rights, not concoct new ways to shackle us. Background checks for private sales have no historical basis—our founders would've scoffed at the idea of free men needing state approval to transfer property. Recent federal rulings tearing down ATF overreach show the courts are starting to see through this nonsense. LD 1062 puts Maine on the right side of history.

I demand the Committee back LD 1062. Torch this unconstitutional mandate, free Maine's people from government's chokehold, and honor the Second Amendment as the untouchable fortress it is. Thank you for hearing me.

Sincerely, Dane Courtois