

David Souers
Friendship
LD 1062

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

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, Members of the committee, I am David Souers. I live in Friendship, Maine.

I am testifying in opposition to LD 1062.

I am a retired healthcare facility architect from a family that owned, collected and used firearms as a hobby, and for recreation, target practice, hunting and protecting our agriculture from certain wildlife, in compliance with a variety of laws protecting ourselves and others for the types of firearms, locations and use.

In the past, permits, background checks, gun safe use training and other protections have been promoted and required to insure safe ownership, handling and use of firearms for the benefit of both gun owners and the majority public who go about their lives unarmed. The most famous story glamorized in American history is the gunfight at the O.K. Corral. On October 26, 1881, the "Lawmen" were pitted against a loosely organized group of cattle rustlers and horse thieves called the "Cowboys". The lawmen, considered heroes, were three brothers, Virgil, Wyatt, and Morgan Earp, as well as Wyatt's close friend Doc Holliday. Deputy U.S. Marshal and Town Marshal, Virgil Earp was in charge. It was his decision to enforce the ordinance that prohibited the carrying of weapons into town. Weapons could be left outside town or turned into the Marshal while in town. The ordinance had been created in Tombstone, Arizona, to address increasing gun violence that made the Tombstone unsafe for town citizens to conduct their lives and businesses. Today's "gun lobby" attitudes to promote gun sales rather than gun safety seems a lot more like the "Cowboys" who demanded unfettered carrying and using their firearms to serve their personal interests over the public interest.

There should be no loop holes in Maine's public safety protections of all Mainer's. Certainly there should be no privilege for any individual or group to bypass public safety protections for the purpose of convenience or economy. The Second Amendment does not eliminate responsibilities for public health and safety. Nor do gun rights rise above, nor deny all other rights of the public.

I advocate that the "gun lobby" rather than seek to eliminate all forms of gun safety laws to achieve unrestricted, unprotected, unaccountable firearm acquisition, ownership, carrying and use, that they establish a plan for the same level of gun safety that we all expect when flying on an airline where coincidentally firearms are not permitted to be carried on your person.

I advocate that this LD 1062 ought not to pass.