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LD 1120

Committee chairs and members of the committee, thank you for hearing me today. I strongly oppose LD 1120, An Act to Promote the Secure Storage of Firearms, and urge you to vote against it.

Maine's rural communities, like mine, rely on personal responsibility and trust in our families to keep us safe. LD 1120 undermines this by imposing strict storage laws that don't fit our reality. The bill makes it a crime to store firearms in ways that allow minors or prohibited persons to access them, with harsh penalties if misuse occurs. While safety is critical, this one-size-fits-all approach ignores the needs of families like mine and penalizes responsible gun ownership.

I have three sons—ages 12, 15, and 17. I've been shooting with them since they were five, teaching them firearm safety and competence. We've trained extensively on what constitutes a security threat in our home. Where I live, we don't have police in our town or the next one over. I work long hours, and in my absence, I consider my boys first responders to any danger presented to my family. They know how to handle firearms responsibly to protect themselves and each other. LD 1120 could criminalize me for keeping guns accessible to my trained sons, even though they're capable and trusted to act in a crisis.

The bill also requires dealers to post notices claiming firearms in the home increase risks of suicide, domestic violence, and accidental death. Perhaps we should include the claim that firearms ownership is the leading deterrent of home invasions.

LD 1120 disregards rural realities and responsible parenting. Please vote against it to protect Maine families like mine. Thank you.