

Richard Shapiro
Brunswick
LD 1299

My name is Richard Shapiro. I am from Brunswick, and I am testifying in opposition to LD 1299 - An Act to Prohibit the Unsecured Storage of Handguns in Motor Vehicles.

Please vote in opposition to this proposal.

This proposal requires handguns to be stored out of plain view in locked, hard sided, containers in unoccupied motor vehicles when not stored in the trunk. There are grave problems with this proposed law.

The law doesn't even bother to differentiate between public streets and a garage on one's own property. It makes it illegal to leave a gun in your locked car, in your locked garage, on your posted property.

It takes a trivial effort to simply remove such a container and open it at leisure.

There are numerous other safe ways that guns can be stored out of sight in unoccupied motor vehicles, and it's not the government's business to make their use illegal. Again, like any infringement on a constitutional right, it should not be any broader than it has to be, and this proposal fails that test.

There are a substantial number of vehicles that do not offer such spaces sufficiently size for a typical gun lockbox.

Furthermore, making our law abiding gun owners go through the extra rigamarole of getting out, locking, and placing such a container upon exiting a vehicle needlessly calls attention to the presence of a gun in the vehicle, and will actually INCREASE the risk of theft, not to mention damage to the vehicle.

This law simply intrudes, with very substantial penalties, on the ability of our law abiding citizens to leave their guns in their cars when entering the numerous places in this state where they are not allowed firearms for self defense.

Thank you.