

Julie Orrego  
Portland, Maine  
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Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Julie Orrego, and I am writing to express my strong opposition to LD 1104, An Act to Limit the Liability of Persons Who Provide Firearm Hold Agreements.

This legislation addresses a critical gap in Maine's efforts to prevent firearm-related suicides and promote responsible gun ownership. By providing legal protection to individuals or entities that temporarily store firearms on behalf of someone else, LD 1104 encourages proactive measures to reduce the risk of impulsive acts of violence.

Maine has one of the highest rates of firearm suicides in the nation. In 2023, approximately 79% of gun deaths in Maine were suicides [citeturn0search9](#). The presence of a firearm in a home significantly increases the risk of suicide, particularly during times of crisis. Research indicates that the availability of a firearm during a suicidal crisis can be a decisive factor, with many individuals acting impulsively without the opportunity for intervention [citeturn0search6](#).

Firearm hold agreements offer a practical solution to this issue. By allowing individuals to store firearms with trusted parties temporarily, these agreements provide a cooling-off period that can be crucial in preventing suicides. However, the lack of legal protection for those who agree to hold firearms has deterred many from participating in such arrangements.

LD 1104 aligns with Maine's strong tradition of responsible gun ownership. It empowers individuals to take proactive steps to ensure firearms are stored securely during times of heightened risk, such as during mental health crises or when children are present in the home. By limiting liability, this bill encourages more people to engage in firearm hold agreements, thereby enhancing public safety.

I urge this committee to support LD 1104. By providing legal protection for those who agree to store firearms temporarily, we can reduce the risk of firearm-related suicides and promote a culture of responsible gun ownership in Maine.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Julie Orrego

Sources:

[Maine - Prevent Firearm Suicide](#)

[Firearm Storage | Department of Mental Health](#)

[Gun suicides in Maine far outpace U.S. rate](#)

[Findings Show Child Access Prevention \(CAP\) Firearm Storage Policies Reduce Youth Gun Suicide Rates | Center for Gun Violence Solutions](#)

[State Data: Maine | Center for Gun Violence Solutions](#)

[Interventions Promoting Safe Storage of Firearms: Time and Space - Maine Psychological Association](#)

[How many people die from gun-related injuries in Maine each year? | USAFacts](#)