

Richard Shapiro
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LD 1379

My name is Richard Shapiro. I am from Brunswick, and am testifying in opposition to "LD 1379 An Act to Require Public Health Warnings to Be Posted and Provided by Firearm Dealers and Gunsmiths"

Please vote against this proposal.

First, the language of this proposal contains inaccuracies – the presence of guns does not increase the likelihood of suicide – this has been proven several times by studies both here and globally. A gun, if present, becomes a likely MEANS of suicide, but does not change the suicide rate.

Correlating the presence of guns with a Pandora's Box of ills fails to take into account numerous externalities. It fatally conflates correlation and causation. It fails to comprehend that law abiding citizens acquire guns they are most NEEDED – in other words, where and when the risk of bad things happening is highest.

Of course, people who are under no threat and who live in safe enclaves are far less likely to be subject to violence and are less likely to own guns. The assertion also appears to apply statements based on a failure to differentiate between legally owned and illegal guns solely to those seeking to legally acquire them.

Besides, the fatal flaws in language, the very premise is ridiculous. Nobody will ever read such notices. And, I can guarantee that no person in the state of Maine will EVER change their behavior based on a briefly glimpsed, if at all, placard!

This is frivolous, and a waste of time and money. It's utterly meaningless in the real world. When was the last time YOU read the blizzard of warnings surrounding the products we purchase?

Thank you.