

Anne M. Gallaudet
Scarborough, Maine

May 1, 2025

Re: LD 1743: An Act to Allow Municipalities to Prohibit Firearms Within Their Municipal Buildings and Voting Places and at Their Municipal Public Proceedings

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and Honorable Members of the Joint Judiciary Committee

I appreciate this opportunity to address you on this important matter. My name is Anne Gallaudet. I am a resident of Scarborough, Maine. I am writing in support of LD 1743.

This bill improves safety at polling places and in municipal buildings and at municipal public proceedings. The bill does not limit or prohibit owning firearms. It does not infringe upon Second Amendment rights.

This bill is not mandating a statewide prohibition but instead allows our counties and municipalities to determine whether to set rules regarding the presence of civilian-handled firearms at the few sensitive public locations set forth in the bill. In the process, it respects local rule, a time-honored tradition in Maine.

This bill does not break new ground. According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, 18 states permit municipalities to prohibit or limit the possession of firearms in municipal buildings and during municipal public proceedings. See also https://www.lgbtmap.org/democracy-maps/guns_in_polling_places; <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/chart-state-prohibitions-guns-election-locations> Importantly, the bill exempts law-enforcement who may be present with firearms.

This bill is a commonsense piece of legislation allowing communities the option to prohibit or limit the possession of firearms in these sensitive settings where residents and municipal staff may feel safer with a no-firearms-rule given rudeness and intimidation unleashed on poll workers and public servants in today's more divisive or at least less civil climate. It mandates postings to alert people of the locality's adoption of such a prohibition.

Thank you for your consideration. I urge you to vote "Ought to Pass" on LD 1743.

Anne Gallaudet,
Scarborough, ME