

MAINE SERVICE CENTERS COALITION

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Testimony of the Maine Service Centers Coalition

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 esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, the Maine Service Centers Coalition is submitting testimony in support of LD 1743, An Act to Allow Municipalities to Prohibit Firearms Within Their Municipal Buildings and Voting Places and at Their Municipal Public Proceedings.

The Maine Service Centers Coalition, comprised of 26 towns and cities across the state, articulates the importance of healthy and thriving service center communities, advocates for public policy that supports and contributes to the economic and social viability of our communities, and collaborates with municipal officials, legislators, state agencies and nonprofits to pursue quality of life for all who live and work in our state.

Maine has long recognized local control as sacrosanct with local issues decided at the level of government closest to its citizens. Our Coalition firmly supports this principle. We believe municipalities are best positioned to determine what is necessary and, importantly, safest for their communities.

LD 1743 would place the decision of whether to allow firearms in municipal buildings, voting places and public proceedings under the control of our service center communities. Each one of our cities and towns is unique and should be given the opportunity to determine the local orders, ordinances, policies or regulations governing firearms at our municipal meetings and locations where municipal business is conducted. In doing so, each service center community would enact appropriate policies that respect our citizens' concerns while protecting the safety and security of the public and our staffs.

We respectfully ask you to vote ought to pass on LD 1743.

Thank you for your time and attention.