

Hillary Shende
Brunswick
LD 1743

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Hillary Shende from Brunswick, and I am in strong support of LD 1743.

Maine's cities and towns deserve the right to determine whether firearms are allowed in their own municipal buildings, public meetings, and polling places. As community member, I regularly show up in my town hall, whether it's to pay taxes, relicense my dog, or attend town council or school board meetings. I also vote in every election.

In my town, voting takes place in a school, which is by default a firearm-free zone. But that may not always be the case. In many Maine towns, it currently is not. And given the polarized nature of current public discourse, public meetings have become more contentious over the years.

As the temperature rises, the likelihood of political violence in our municipalities rises with it. If given the option, I'm sure my town would vote to restrict firearms from municipal buildings and public meetings, but our local officials' hands are tied. We are forced to be sitting ducks, and aren't allowed to have any control whatsoever over this, the most lethal potential threat to our safety. This is wrong, and LD 1743 would fix it. Please vote for this bill. Thank you.