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30 Association Drive, Box 190

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office: 207-622-3374

www.maineaap.org

LD 1821, An Act to Ensure Responsible Business Practices by Licensed Firearms Dealers

Sponsored by Representative Amy Kuhn

Senator Carney, Representative Kun, and distinguished members of the joint standing on committee on Judiciary,

I am Dr. Laura Blaisdell MD/MPH, FAAP and I reside in South Portland, Maine. I am pleased to provide testimony in strong support of LD 1821, "An Act to Ensure Responsible Business Practices by Licensed Firearms Dealers."

LD 1821 would establish minimum security requirements for firearm dealers in Maine. I am a practicing physician with over 20 years of experience counseling and treating patients affected by firearm injuries, and I speak from both a public health and clinical perspective.

As a physician, I approach this issue as a preventative health measure. Just as we recommend safety measures to keep children and adolescents safe from other risky exposures—establishing minimum security requirements for firearm dealers represents an evidence-based approach to prevent firearms from being stolen and potentially used in violent crimes.

Gun violence is a significant public health crisis in our nation. Firearms are now the leading cause of death for children and teens in the United States. (1) When firearms are stolen from dealers and diverted to illegal markets, they frequently end up in the hands of individuals who cannot legally possess them, increasing the risk of violent crime, suicide, and accidental injuries that require medical intervention. According to ATF data, the theft of firearms from federally licensed dealers poses "a serious threat to community safety" as these weapons "risk falling into the hands of violent criminals." (2)

LD 1821 takes a reasonable approach by requiring the Department of Public Safety to establish minimum security requirements for firearm dealers, including alarm systems, record retention, and site hardening. These are common-sense measures that many responsible dealers already implement, but standardizing these requirements will help prevent the theft and trafficking of firearms throughout our state.

I also strongly support the educational components of LD 1821, which require firearm dealers and gun shows to post informational signs about the crime of endangering the welfare of a child, background check requirements, suicide prevention resources, and firearm safety course information.

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As a physician, I particularly value the suicide prevention aspect of this legislation. In Maine, 47% of adults own guns, and nationally approximately 50% of gun owners do not secure their guns safely. (3) When firearms are properly secured at the dealer level and consumers are educated about safe storage and suicide prevention resources, we can reduce both theft and tragic outcomes.

Some may argue that these requirements place an undue burden on small business owners. However, these security measures are investments that protect not only the public but also the businesses themselves from inventory loss and potential liability. Many dealers already implement such measures voluntarily, recognizing that securing their inventory is both good business practice and responsible citizenship.

LD 1821, as introduced by Representative Amy Kuhn, aims to “help federal firearm licensees comply with regulations and feel more equipped to safely do their jobs.” (4) This bill acknowledges “the professionalism of the vast majority of gun shop owners in Maine” while providing consistent standards that benefit everyone.

As a physician committed to public health and injury prevention, I urge this committee to support LD 1821. This legislation represents a balanced approach that respects the rights of responsible firearm dealers while implementing reasonable security measures to prevent the theft and misuse of firearms.

By passing LD 1821, Maine would join other states in taking meaningful steps to reduce firearm theft and trafficking, ultimately helping to prevent the injuries and deaths that I and my medical colleagues too often witness in our emergency departments and trauma centers.

Thank you for your consideration. I am available to answer any questions you may have.

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Laura Blaisdell, MD/MPH, FAAP

References:

1. Herald-Zeitung, “Gun deaths must be addressed,” opinion article published May 3, 2025.
2. ATF, ATF Releases Mid-Year 2021 Burglary, Theft Data for Federal Firearms Licensees,”; Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives press release.
3. Maine Gun Safety Coalition, “Safe Storage & Child Access Prevention,” data on gun ownership and storage practices in Maine.
4. Maine Morning Star, “Secretary of State backs bill allowing towns to ban guns at polling places,” article published May 1, 2025.