

# Maine Chapter

INCORPORATED IN MAINE

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



## Executive Committee

President

Brian Youth, MD, FAAP

Vice President

Anne Coates, MD, FAAP

Treasurer

Jeffrey Stone, DO, FAAP

Secretary

Genevieve Whiting, MD, FAAP

Immediate Past President

Laura Blaisdell, MD, MPH, FAAP

## Board of Directors

Joseph Anderson, DO, FAAP

Rebecca Brakeley, MD, FAAP

Amy Buczkowski, MD, FAAP

Melissa Burch, MD, FAAP

Adrienne Carmack, MD, FAAP

Gabriel Civiello, MD, FAAP

Alyssa Goodwin, MD, FAAP

Allison Grover, MD\*

Deborah Q. Hagler, MD, MPH, FAAP

Dan Hale, MD, FAAP

Jennifer Jewell, MD, MS, FAAP

Stephanie Joy, MD, FAAP

Emily Keller, MD, FAAP

Alton Kremer, MD, PhD, FAAP

Michele LaBotz, MD, FAAP

Lawrence Losey, MD, FAAP

Sophia Martens\*\*

Christopher Motyl, DO, FAAP

Valerie O'Hara, DO, FAAP

Calvin Schaffer, MD\*

Andrea Tracy, MD, FAAP

Lara Walsh, MD, FAAP

Afnan Yahya\*\*

Margaret Zamboni, DO, FAAP

\*Resident Board Representatives

\*\*Medical Student Representatives

## Staff

Dee Kerry, BS

Executive Director

Emily Belanger, RN, BSN

Education & Membership Manager

Madeleine DesFosses, BA

Public Health & Advocacy Manager

Tiffany Harrington, MBA

Development Director

30 Association Drive, Box 190

Manchester, ME 04351

office: 207-622-3374

[www.maineaap.org](http://www.maineaap.org)

## Testimony in OPPOSITION to:

- **LD 525, An Act to Strengthen Maine Citizens' Second Amendment Rights by Allowing the Discharge of Firearms on Private Property That Is Within 500 Feet of School Property in Certain Circumstances**
- **LD 885, An Act to Allow Certain Persons with a Permit to Carry Concealed Handguns to Possess or Discharge a Firearm on School Property**

## Education and Cultural Affairs Committee

May 7, 2025

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy, and Esteemed Members of the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs,

My name is Madeleine DesFosses, and I am submitting this testimony on behalf of the Maine Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. The Maine AAP is a professional organization of 300 pediatricians and pediatric subspecialists dedicated to protecting the health of Maine children and adolescents. We are in strong opposition to LD 525 and LD 885, which will make schools and students more susceptible to firearm related injuries and deaths.

The 500-foot buffer currently in place exists to protect students, teachers, and school communities from firearm-related violence. Eliminating this important buffer increases the risk of accidental discharges, misfires, stray bullets, and misunderstandings, all of which can have serious and potentially fatal consequences. We must ensure that schools remain safe spaces where students can learn and grow.

To that end, allowing concealed firearms onto school property unnecessarily puts the safety of students and staff at great risk. While the gun lobby falsely argues that “gun-free zones” only invite mass shootings, research shows that existing laws that prohibit weapons in schools help keep students safe. One study in Saint Louis, Missouri showed that there were nearly 14% fewer crimes committed with a firearm in gun-free school zones compared to gun-allowing zones (1).

Firearm related injuries are the leading cause of death among children and adolescents in the US. Therefore, we should be doing everything we can to prevent gun violence and protect our kids. That means prioritizing evidence-based policies that prevent and reduce firearm injuries, not policies like LD 525 and LD 885 perpetuate firearm violence and put children's lives at greater risk.

I urge the committee to vote “Ought NOT to Pass” on LD 525 and LD 885. Please help keep our schools and students safe.

Madeleine DesFosses

Advocacy and Public Health Manager, Maine AAP

# Maine Chapter

INCORPORATED IN MAINE

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



## References:

1. Paul M. Reeping et al., “The Effect of Gun-free School Zones on Crimes Committed with a Firearm in Saint Louis, Missouri,” *Journal of Urban Health* 100, no. 6 (2023): 1118–1127.