

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and members of the committee, my name is Peg Duhamel and I live in Woolwich. I am a retired primary care doctor and have lived in Maine for 37 years.

I am here to speak against LD 424, 829, 953

In aggregate, it appears that these bills are being put forward to further expand the rights of gun owners at the expense of public safety.

LD 424

All 50 states require people to be 21 to drink alcohol. Part of the reasoning has to do with on going brain development in the areas of decision making and impulse control. People age 18-20 years old statistically commit gun violence at triple the rate of adults over 21. Passing a bill allowing concealed carry to people under 21 who are more likely to be impulsive and less likely to have thought through the consequences of their actions is an irresponsible decision.

LD 829

I camp and hike in Maine State parks on a very regular basis. Because Maine allows concealed carry without a permit in general, fewer people have a permit, and that means fewer people are bringing guns to a state park where they are required. I feel safer and less vulnerable sleeping in a tent or hiking by myself knowing that anyone there who does have a gun, has at least been screened through the permit process and is less likely to be careless or reckless with its use.

I can't bring a gun into this building. Why do you all deserve more piece of mind than I do? *My knitting needles were taken away when I come in the building today.* Getting a permit is not that hard if you have no criminal record. I cannot fathom why a law like this is smart or necessary.

LD 953 is an incomplete solution to the issue of the danger to public safety of rapid fire devices. And appears only to be a distraction from the more thorough solution proposed by LD 677.

Thank you.