

## Testimony Against

LD 424, An Act Concerning the Concealed Carrying of a Handgun by an Individual Who is 18 Years of Age but Under 21 Years of Age.

LD 829, An Act to Standardize the Laws Regarding the Carrying of Concealed Handguns in our State Parks.

March 25, 2025

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Art Blank and I live in Bar Harbor and speaking representing the Healthy Acadia Board of Directors, a nonprofit community health organization serving primarily Hancock and Washington counties in addition to partnering with others to deliver services across the state. We're here speaking against passage of LD 424 and LD 829.

We support a public health approach to gun safety, to uphold Maine's traditions of safe and appropriate gun use, while supporting common-sense policies regarding access to guns that support the safety and well-being of all Mainers. We believe these bills discussed today would undermine and roll back common-sense gun safety measures.

LD 424, An Act Concerning the Concealed Carrying of a Handgun by an Individual Who is 18 Years of Age but Under 21 Years of Age. This legislation would permit an 18-year-old to carry a concealed handgun. We know that gun violence is the leading cause of death for youth. Nationally, 18-20 year olds commit homicides at three times the rate of older Americans.\* Expanding the opportunity for this to occur is bad policy and certainly does not support the well-being of all Mainers.

LD 829, An Act to Standardize the Laws Regarding the Carrying of Concealed Handguns in our State Parks. This legislation likewise would allow youth to carry concealed handguns without any adult supervision or training necessary in our parks where families gather to enjoy the beauty of our state, putting them at increased risk for gun violence. Again, we urge the Committee to protect common-sense gun safety policies to support the well-being of all Mainers.

Thank you for your time, and we urge you to vote LD 424 and LD 829 OUGHT not to pass.

- Everytown Research analysis using FBI Supplementary Homicide Report (SHR) and US Population Data obtained from CDC WONDER, 2022.