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*Testimony of Rep. Jennifer Poirier introducing*  
**LD 1049, "An Act to Eliminate the Duty to Inform a Law Enforcement Officer When Carrying a Concealed Handgun Without a Permit"**  
*Before the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary*

March 26, 2025

I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony regarding An Act to Eliminate the Duty to Inform a Law Enforcement Officer When Carrying a Concealed Handgun Without a Permit. My intention is to provide a balanced perspective on the potential implications of this legislation.

Currently, under existing law, individuals carrying a concealed handgun without a permit are required to disclose this information to law enforcement officers during encounters. The proposed legislation seeks to remove this obligation, which raises several important considerations for public safety, individual rights, and law enforcement interactions.

From a law enforcement perspective, officers approach every interaction with the understanding that any individual they encounter may be armed. The duty to inform provides officers with immediate situational awareness, allowing them to approach interactions with greater caution and preparedness. This can be particularly relevant in routine traffic stops or other encounters where quick decision-making is necessary. Removing this requirement may lead to increased uncertainty for officers, potentially affecting the safety of both officers and civilians.

It is also important to note that the current duty to inform law does not apply to individuals who possess a concealed carry permit. These individuals are already exempt from the requirement, meaning the proposed change would primarily impact those carrying without a permit.

On the other hand, proponents of this legislation argue that individuals who lawfully carry concealed firearms without a permit should not be compelled to disclose this information, as long as they are not engaging in unlawful behavior. They suggest that removing the duty to inform aligns with constitutional rights and ensures that law-abiding citizens are not subject to unnecessary scrutiny or potential bias.

A key consideration is how this change might affect public trust in law enforcement interactions. Transparency and open communication between civilians and officers contribute to safer, more predictable engagements. However, some may feel that mandated disclosure places an undue burden on lawful gun owners who are simply exercising their rights.

Regardless of the outcome of this bill, there may be opportunities to ensure that both public safety and individual rights are appropriately balanced. Potential alternatives to full repeal could include revising disclosure requirements to apply only in specific circumstances, providing additional officer training on concealed carry encounters, or implementing best practices to foster voluntary, respectful communication.

I encourage the committee to carefully examine both the public safety and civil liberties aspects of this proposal and to consider the perspectives of law enforcement officers, responsible gun owners, and community members alike.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jennifer Poirier  
State Representative