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I am demanding that you vote "Ought to Pass" on this Bill, LD 998, An Act Regarding an Employer's Authority to Prohibit an Employee from Storing a Firearm in the Employee's Vehicle.

Under current Maine law, an employer who prohibits their employees from keeping their personal carry firearms in their vehicles is not only forcing them to be defenseless while on the clock, but also for all moments from the time they leave their home until the walk through their front door after their shift. Employers are even less responsible for keep their workers safe in those circumstances than they are while they are working.

My only complaint about this bill is that it does not go far enough in holding employers accountable for the safety of their employees. Employer policies prohibiting firearm possession are one of the key factors that contribute to targeted and indiscriminate active attacks. Just-In-Time recreation had policies in place that not only prohibited their employees from carrying, but made it a Class D crime under Title 17 Chapter 43 subsection 1057 for their customers to be armed. Nearly all of the killing shots were fired while the perpetrator was standing next to the sign stating "no firearms allowed." Property owners, if they can not be held accountable for their complicity in workplace violence, need to be stripped of their ability to force those under their authority to be left vulnerable.

As I am doing for all the bills that would remove restrictions on permitless concealed carry, I am putting on the back of my testimony a scan of the first carry permits in America from the Virginia Slave Codes. Let it serve as a reminder that carry permits are inextricably tied to slavery and racism. They need to go away, even if only incrementally through these bills.

remain upon his or her plantation, above four hours at any one time, without the leave of such slave's master, mistress, or overseer, on penalty of one hundred and fifty pounds of tobacco to the informer; cognizable by a justice of the peace of the county wherein such offence shall be committed.

XXXIII. *Provided also,* That if any runaway servant, adjudged to serve for the charges of his or her pursuit and recovery, shall, at the time, he or she is so adjudged, repay and satisfy, or give good security before the court, for repayment and satisfaction of the same, to his or her master or owner, within six months after, such master or owner shall be obliged to accept thereof, in lieu of the service given and allowed for such charges and disbursements.

Runaway servants may give security to repay expenses.

XXXIV. And if any slave resist his master, or owner, or other person, by his or her order, correcting such slave, and shall happen to be killed in such correction, it shall not be accounted felony; but the master, owner, and every such other person so giving correction, shall be free and acquit of all punishment and accusation for the same, as if such accident had never happened: And also, if any negro, mulatto, or Indian, bond or free, shall at any time, lift his or her hand, in opposition against any christian, not being negro, mulatto, or Indian, he or she so offending, shall, for every such offence, proved by the oath of the party, receive on his or her bare back, thirty lashes, well laid on; cognizable by a justice of the peace for that county wherein such offence shall be committed.

Killing slaves, under correction, no felony.

Penalty on slave resisting a white person.

XXXV. *And also be it enacted, by the authority aforesaid, and it is hereby enacted,* That no slave go armed with gun, sword, club, staff, or other weapon, nor go from off the plantation and seat of land where such slave shall be appointed to live, without a certificate of leave in writing, for so doing, from his or her master, mistress, or overseer: And if any slave shall be found offending herein, it shall be lawful for any person or persons to apprehend and deliver such slave to the next constable or head-borough, who is hereby enjoined and required, without further order or warrant, to give such slave twenty lashes on his or her bare back, well laid on, and so send him or her home: And all horses, cattle, and hogs, now belonging, or that hereafter shall be-

Guns, &c. found in possession of slaves.

Horses, &c. belonging to slaves may be seized.