

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of LD 1120 and LD 1299. I'm Mark Segar, from Freeport, a retired teacher and school administrator. These bills offer focused and appropriate proposals for increasing safety for our families, communities, schools and other institutions. Both at home and in motor vehicles, these steps reduce the risk of injury or death, whether by intentional theft or by accident.

Two brief notes from personal experience. Some years ago, a young Maine man I knew well took his own life in an impulsive act after finding an unsecured firearm. More recently, my much younger brother told me about his childhood discovery, home alone, of our father's unsecured Colt revolver, high on a closet shelf. "I knew where he kept the bullets, too" he told me. Too close for comfort.

The first bill provides a sensible adaptation of current safe storage law. The second bill will help reduce the risk of thefts of unsecured hand guns in motor vehicles. Both bills have been carefully drafted by their sponsors, and provide important exceptions to clarify specific situations and ensure individual rights.

In a state where thefts from motor vehicles occur more than a thousand times a year, at a time when the majority of suicide deaths are from firearms, these two bills provide valuable, constitutional, and humane frameworks for positive legislation. I urge you to act favorably on LD 1120 and LD 1299.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark W. Segar
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