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**Testimony on**  
**L.D. 1174, "An Act to Allow Gun Shops to Hold Firearms for**  
**Veterans of the United States Armed Forces and**  
**First Responders"**

**Presented by**  
**Representative Stephen J. Wood**  
**District 92**

Judiciary Committee  
Wednesday, April 16, 2025

Good afternoon, Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary:

I am State Representative Stephen J. Wood, and I proudly represent District 92, Greene and Sabattus. It is an honor to appear before you today for the purpose of introducing L.D. 1174, "**An Act to Allow Gun Shops to Hold Firearms for Veterans of the United States Armed Forces and First Responders.**"

This proposal's concept is simple. It seeks to allow a gun shop to take possession of a firearm owned by a veteran of the United State Armed Forces or first responder if the gun shop enters into a firearm hold agreement with the owner. Additional stipulations include the gun shop having to keep the firearm separate from its own inventory and calling for the shop to stay in contact with the firearm's owner every six months. The firearm hold agreement must make note of a family member or other individual who may lawfully take possession of a firearm and will take possession of the firearm upon proof of the firearm owner's death during the pendency of the hold agreement.

The State of Montana was the first to implement this type of initiative, and the many firearms shops I have discussed this proposal with are in favor of its overall intent.

Thank you for your time and consideration.