

LD 1062

## **An Act to Eliminate Background Checks for Private Sales of Firearms**

### **Ought to Pass**

Committee chairs and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to speak. I strongly support LD 1062, An Act to Eliminate Background Checks for Private Sales of Firearms and urge you to vote ought to pass.

I've conducted private sales myself, and I'm always diligent about what's required. I ask to see a driver's license or concealed carry permit to confirm the buyer's identity and residency. If the person isn't from Maine, I don't sell to them. If I suspect anything concerning—signs of drug use, mental instability, or anything that raises a red flag—I walk away from the sale and I inform prospective buyers that I reserve that right before we meet. Most Mainers I know take similar precautions, acting responsibly out of principle, not mandate. Our existing laws already hold us accountable for knowingly selling to prohibited persons, and that's enough.

In addition, wouldn't an education campaign on how to and not to sell a firearm in a private sale be a better way to achieve the alleged goal of this punitive law? Many people have come to me with inherited or unwanted firearms stating that they looked online for resources on how to safely sell firearms, but many groups that claim to promote gun safety fall short in actual information on how the process should be handled.

In short, there are better ways than to make laws than being punitive to law abiding citizens. LD 1062 trusts Maine's responsible gun owners to continue acting with integrity. Please vote ought to pass to eliminate this unnecessary requirement. Thank you.

Joseph M. Hayes

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