

5/1/2025

Testimony in support of LD 1379 – An Act to Require Public Health Warnings to Be Posted and Provided by Firearm Dealers and Gunsmiths

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and members of the Judiciary Committee

My name is Lynn Ellis and I live in Brunswick, Maine. I am a retired social worker and long-time gun safety advocate. I came today planning on testifying on another bill and I will, however, after I read the NRA-ILA Institute for Legislative Action website descriptor of LD1379 I felt compelled to testify on this bill as well. It states *“LD1379 requires all firearm dealers and gunsmith to display anti-gun ‘public health’ warnings at their establishments. This bill attempts to further the farce that firearms are a ‘public health crisis’ and intimidate or dissuade first-time gun buyers.”*

Calling the crisis that is gun violence in this country a farce is beyond belief. I quote from just a few reputable medical sources:

**April, 2024 - The surgeon general declared gun violence a public health crisis.**

Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy speaks during an event on the White House in April. The nation's top doctor has issued an advisory about the public health risks of widespread gun violence. (1)

**The American Public Health Association reports “Gun Violence is a Public Health Crisis”**

In the United States, gun violence is a major public health problem...

**The American Medical Association calls gun violence "a public health crisis."**

CHICAGO — In the wake of the worst mass shooting in American history and with more than 6,000 deaths already in 2016 from gun violence, the American Medical Association (AMA) today adopted policy calling gun violence in the United States "a public health crisis" requiring a comprehensive public health response and solution

**The RAND Corporation** acknowledge gun violence as a public health crisis. They have conducted research and initiatives to understand its causes, effects, and potential prevention strategies, according to their website. The RAND Corporation, in particular, has a long history of providing policymakers with objective, independent analysis on complex topics, including gun policy. (4)

**The Gun Violence Archive** keeps track of all the gun violence in the country and as of today there have been 502 mass shootings in the first 4 months of this year; and 503 last year. Maine has sadly had 3 mass shootings in the last two years and one was just a month ago. (5)

Referencing the Maine NRA website again all bills I would consider safety measures are listed as Anti-Gun Bills and most listed as Pro-Gun Bills are those I consider to be potentially dangerous and based only on a belief that more guns make us safer. I'd say we're at an impasse.

Please vote to pass LD1379 and address the intent of the bills which addresses the public health concerns in our state of high rates of suicide, unintentional deaths of children who gain access to firearms, and highlight the necessity of safe storage of all firearms.

Lynn Ellis

Brunswick

- (1) <https://www.npr.org/2024/06/25/nx-s1-5018625/surgeon-general-vivek-murthy-gun-violence-public-health-crisis>
- (2) [https://www.apha.org/getcontentasset/cd515a29-89fa-45aa-a2c3-55ef0c4c4a92/7ca0dc9d-611d-46e2-9fd3-26a4c03ddcbb/220617\\_gun\\_violence\\_prevention\\_fact\\_sheet.pdf?language=en](https://www.apha.org/getcontentasset/cd515a29-89fa-45aa-a2c3-55ef0c4c4a92/7ca0dc9d-611d-46e2-9fd3-26a4c03ddcbb/220617_gun_violence_prevention_fact_sheet.pdf?language=en)
- (3) <https://www.ama-assn.org/press-center/ama-press-releases/ama-calls-gun-violence-public-health-crisis>
- (4) <https://www.rand.org/pubs/commentary/2023/01/responding-to-the-firearm-violence-crisis-are-some.html#:~:text=Gun%20Violence%20Claims%20More%20Than%20100%20Lives%20Each%20Day&text=Many%20more%20people%20are%20affected,RAND%20Drug%20Policy%20Research%20Center.>
- (5) <https://www.gunviolencearchive.org/mass-shooting>
- (6) <https://www.nraila.org/articles/20250429/maine-another-round-of-gun-bills-to-be-heard-may-1st>