

Geoff Gratwick
Bangor

LD 759, April 21, 2021 Geoff Gratwick, Bangor

Good morning, Senator Deschambault, Representative Warren and esteemed members of the Committee. My name is Geoff Gratwick and I am a retired physician and loving grandparent living in Bangor.

Young children are helpless. As we all know childhood in humans lasts longer than in any other animal because so much time is needed for our development, there is so much to learn. Our kids are helpless when they start out. They need protection, absolute and complete for the first years, and then less so as they develop - but they still need the adults around them to protect them.

Good parents protect their children. A well-ordered society protects its children because they are its tomorrow. Our American society makes laws about kids - car seats, corporal punishment, smoking in cars, parental abuse, schooling. We have a state agency here that deals with child abuse and child neglect; you all confirm its importance for our kids by voting on its budget each year.

We can all imagine actions on the part of parents and neighbors that we think would be neglectful. If we 'see something we say something' because we have decided as Mainer's that our children, our most precious resource, must be given at least the chance to pursue life, liberty and indeed the pursuit happiness.

The bill before you today represents common sense. It does what I am sure each and every one of us would do to protect our kids. It does what we would want our neighbors to do when our kids are playing at their house. It requires safe storage, no more, no less.

I urge you to support 759 in the name of your kids, your neighbor's kids and all those that love them.

Thank you