

Jonathan Martell
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LD 759 - An Act To Amend the Child Endangerment Laws To Include Certain Unauthorized Access to a Loaded Firearm

Memorandum of Opposition

Date: Apr 21, 2021

To: Honorable Members of the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety

From: Jonathan Martell

RE: LD 759 - An Act To Amend the Child Endangerment Laws To Include Certain

Senator Deschambault, Representative Warren, members of the committee, I would like to express my opposition to LD 759 - An Act To Amend the Child Endangerment Laws To Include Certain

While I understand the outward appearance of this bill to be a good thing, it is in fact a very dangerous bill. It is already a crime to endanger the welfare of a child under Title 17-A Maine Criminal Code Chapter 23 § 554-B.

Affirmative defenses do not protect against being charged with a crime. This means that many innocent people will end up in the court system.

This is essentially the same as LD379 from 2019 with some very minor changes. Frankly I'm tired of seeing the same bills come up year after year, and having to take time off from work to speak against them. The Maine Constitution is clear on firearms laws. The only way this is enforceable is to have a registry and inspections.

Any self defense firearms would be required to be locked up unless they are always on your person. We all know that this is completely impractical.

Maine doesn't have a gun problem with children gaining access.

This is opening the door for safe storage inspections and fines for those that don't keep all firearms in a safe

This makes you liable if you have a home defense shotgun or pistol in a unlocked location. Even if it's out of reach of children.

Once again, this bill goes against the Maine State Constitution in that infringes on a persons right to keep and bear arms as they see fit. Parents are perfectly capable of teaching their children firearm safety, and Maine has a long heritage of doing just that.

Don't violate your oath of office, vote Ought Not to Pass on LD 759

Sincerely,

Jonathan Martell
Sanford, ME