



April 19, 2021

Representative Doudera of Camden and Senator Breen of Cumberland  
Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee  
State House  
Augusta ME 04332

*Re LD759 An Act to Amend the Child Endangerment Laws to Include Certain Unauthorized Access to a Loaded Firearm*

Dear Representative Doudera and Senator Breen, Representatives Bell, Millett, Talbot Ross, Warren, Zager, and Speaker Fecteau, Senator Libby, and Committee members:

The Maine Psychological Association (MePA) is a membership organization representing psychologists in Maine who work in private practice, at Maine's colleges and universities, and in the public sector. Our mission is to advance psychology as a science, as a profession, and as a means of promoting health and human welfare.

MePA supports LD759 to amend the Maine Criminal Code to specify that storing or leaving a loaded firearm on premises under a person's control when the person knows or reasonably should know that a child is likely to gain access to that firearm, and the child in fact gains access to the loaded firearm and uses it, is considered endangering the welfare of a child and is a Class D crime.

The bill provides protections that are critical to the public safety of children from the dangers of access to stored and loaded firearms. Thank you for your attention to this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas Cooper".

Thomas Cooper, PsyD  
President