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Please support LD 759, Child Access Prevention, which will amend the Maine child endangerment statute to make it a crime to leave a loaded firearm where the person knows (or should know) a child can access it if the child uses the gun. The Bill contains many exceptions/defenses including if the child uses the gun to defend themselves or someone else from a threat, if the gun is obtained illegally and if the gun owner stores their weapon securely in the first place. It is up to adults to ensure guns are securely stored so that curious children and vulnerable teens cannot get to them. Responsible gun owners do this routinely and protect their loved ones from unintentional shootings. But not every gun owner realizes the danger of leaving guns where children and teens can get to them and research shows that more than half of gun owners do not store their weapons safely. For every legally justifiable shooting that occurs in a home, it is estimated that 22 unintentional and suicide-related shootings occur. Studies have shown that safe storage laws are associated with significant reductions in self-inflicted firearm injuries among children under 18. A study by researchers at Johns Hopkins found that states with secure storage laws that hold gun owners accountable for child access saw an 11 percent decrease in firearm suicide rates among teens aged 14 to 17. LD 759 will help parents protect their children from unintentional shootings by acting as a serious reminder to all gun owners to be responsible and store all firearms securely. And it will help gun owners avoid the tragedy of being responsible for injuries or death resulting from a poorly stored gun.