

Holly Travers
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Senator Deschambault, Representative Warren, and distinguished members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee, I am Holly Travers and I live in Westbrook, Maine.

I am writing in support of LD759, AN ACT TO AMEND THE CHILD ENDANGERMENT LAWS TO INCLUDE CERTAIN UNAUTHORIZED ACCESS TO A LOADED FIREARM.

Please bear with me while I tell you a short story. I was about 9 years old when I attended a summer camp. While visiting an area with waterfalls and pools of water to swim in, I sat with a group of children watching others jump into a small natural pool. I noticed a child having difficulty coming to the surface. She tried again and again but could not get her head up and out of the water. In the midst of laughter and play, no one else seemed to notice. Maybe they didn't believe what was happening in front of them, that someone could be in danger. I pointed the swimmer out to an adult who was present and he quickly entered the water and brought her out. She lived but nearly drowned because currents under the surface were pulling downward.

I tell you this story because sometimes adults in a position of responsibility for children need to be reminded of a potential danger. Perhaps we are too optimistic, thinking that our child will not play with a handgun. Our teenager will not use a gun to take their life or the lives of others. But the truth is, young children do play with whatever they find fascinating. Teenagers do swim in emotions often deeper and more despairing than we realize.

LD 759 alerts parents who keep guns in their homes to a danger. It helps them to take the danger seriously. I urge you to respond and act to pass LD759.

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony.