

Monique Boutin
Wiscasset, ME
Position: Ought Not to Pass
LD#: 1171 An Act to Curtail 'No-Knock' Warrants

April 26, 2021

Senator Deschambault, Representative Warren, and members of the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety, greetings, and thank you for your time. My name is Monique Boutin, and I am a resident of Wiscasset, ME. I urge you to oppose 1171, as it does not effectively eliminate risks to the safety of officers and civilians posed by no-knock raids or 'dynamic entry,' which can still occur when using a standard 'knock-and-announce' warrant.

Even without a no-knock warrant (which LD 1171 does not ban; it simply curtails), the same dangerous conditions that have led to fatality and harm in the execution of no-knock warrants can still occur. These include officers not being identifiable in uniform, taking place at night, and not including a pause after a knock and announcement of law enforcement presence to allow civilians to voluntarily comply. Except for exigent verifiable circumstances, these conditions are too dangerous to officers and civilians alike in the state of Maine where 46.8% of adults have at least one gun at home.¹

I invite you to imagine how long it would take you to reach your front door from a bedroom, living room, or basement? Now imagine folks, in plain clothes, entering your home at night without announcing authority or purpose. Many would assume a break in. As someone born and raised in Maine, I know many people whose response to this scenario would be "I would defend myself," and they would be justified since we know individuals have the right to use force against a person they reasonably believe to be an unlawful intruder committing a forcible felony. To not abolish no-knock warrants excepting verifiable exigent circumstances, or adequately and effectively address the practice of no-knock raids and 'dynamic entry' is to leave open unnecessary risk for injury or even fatality for officers and civilians. LD 1171 leaves open these risks to civilian and officer safety. I urge you not to pass LD 1171.

¹ Terry L. Schell, Samuel Peterson, Brian G. Vegetabile, Adam Scherling, Rosanna Smart, Andrew R. Morral, April 2020, *State Level Estimates of Household Firearm Ownership*, <https://www.rand.org/pubs/tools/TL354.html>, April 24, 2021.