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I support LD 1052 “An Act To Protect the Firearm Use and Possession Rights of Maine Citizens during an Emergency” and LD 1315 “An Act To Protect Firearm Use and Possession Rights during a State of Emergency and Require a Two-thirds Vote by the Legislative Council To Declare or Extend a State of Emergency”.

Maine is home to hundreds of gun dealers which are overwhelmingly small, family-owned businesses. Last year, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the administration of Governor Mills declared the businesses to be "non-essential and forced them to close. It was only after the U.S. Department of Homeland Security designated that firearms industry essential that gun stores were able to re-open.

During this period of time, many areas of the country were besieged by violence and police departments were curtailing responses due to the pandemic. These are exactly the times when law abiding Mainers most need self-defense firearms and ammunition.

These bills will prevent abuse of emergency powers by the Governor of Maine. Gun stores will no longer be forced to close if these bills are enacted into law. The method for the Governor to declare or extend a state of emergency will be reformed, to require the state legislatures input, as it should be. I insist that ALL of our elected officials have a say in this very important, life changing event!

These bills except from the provisions a law enforcement officer's seizing a firearm, ammunition or accessories or components while detaining an individual for suspected criminal activity pursuant to a warrantless arrest. This bill also suspends the expiration date for concealed handgun permits for a state of emergency.

With passage of these bills into law, law abiding Maine citizens Constitutional rights, both United States and Maine, shall not be crushed during a declared “state of emergency”.

Again, I support LD 1052 “An Act To Protect the Firearm Use and Possession Rights of Maine Citizens during an Emergency” and LD 1315 “An Act To Protect Firearm Use and Possession Rights during a State of Emergency and Require a Two-thirds Vote by the Legislative Council To Declare or Extend a State of Emergency”, and they “ought to pass”.