

Martin Jackson
Wiscasset

Honorable Members of the Committee,

I urge you to vote "Ought to pass" on LD 1052 for the following reasons;

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. Leaving the citizenry of Maine unable to defend themselves in times of emergency is nonsensical and flies directly in the face of common sense. This bill secures the rights of all Maine citizens to protect themselves in times of emergency.

This bill will prevent abuse of emergency powers by the Governor of Maine, regardless of their political affiliation. Gun stores will no longer be forced to close if this bill is enacted into law.

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".

As ever, the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution directly supports this bill "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms shall not be infringed".

Section 16 of the Maine Constitution also clearly states "Every citizen has a right to keep and bear arms and this right shall never be questioned". This alone supports the bill.

Again, I urge you to vote "Ought to pass" on LD1052.