

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION

11250 WAPLES MILL ROAD

FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22030



NRA

May 5, 2021

Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety

100 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Senator Deschambault, Representative Warren, and Honorable Members of the Committee:

I am writing to you regarding Legislative Document 1179 (LD 1179), an act to restrict Maine law enforcement participation in federal firearm confiscation or buy-back programs without legislative approval. On behalf of the National Rifle Association, I would like to express our support for this legislation.

LD 1179 requires a majority vote of each Chamber of the Maine Legislature and approval by the Governor for any use of a law enforcement officer or agency in a federal firearm confiscation or buy-back program. This bill also applies to any firearm or ammunition magazine legally owned on or before January 1, 2021.

Gun buy-back programs across the nation are often pitched with high hopes of curbing crime by “taking guns off the street.” In fact, these programs have proven to be significant failures and a waste of taxpayer dollars, with no noticeable impact on crime. The average person who voluntarily surrenders a firearm to police is not a criminal and the firearms surrendered have not been misused by criminals. Any criminal who does turn in a crime gun may do so in reliance of the “no questions asked” basis, and simply obtains funds to spend on new weapons.

On behalf of the thousands of NRA members in Maine, I urge you to support this legislation that will save taxpayer money and hold Maine’s elected officials accountable. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have additional questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lauren E. LePage".

Lauren E. LePage, Esq.

State Director, NRA-ILA