

Maine Chapter

INCORPORATED IN MAINE

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



Executive Committee

President

Laura Blaisdell, MD, MPH, FAAP

Vice President

Brian Youth, MD, FAAP

Treasurer

Christopher Motyl, DO, FAAP

Secretary

Genevieve Whiting, MD, FAAP

Immediate Past President

Deborah Q. Hagler, MD, MPH, FAAP

Board of Directors

Mahmuda Ahmed, MD, FAAP

Joseph Anderson, DO, FAAP

Amy Buczkowski, MD, FAAP

Melissa Burch, MD, FAAP

Adrienne Carmack, MD, FAAP

Gabriel Civiello, MD, FAAP

Anne Coates, MD, FAAP

Dan Hale, MD, FAAP

Riley Heroux**

Jennifer Jewell, MD, MS, FAAP

Stephanie Joy, MD, FAAP

Emily Keller, MD, FAAP

Alton Kremer, MD, PhD, FAAP

Michele Labotz, MD, FAAP

Maria Libertin, MD*

Lawrence Losey, MD, FAAP

Valerie O'Hara, DO, FAAP

Gita Rao, MD, FAAP

Sydney Sewall MD, MPH, FAAP

Austin Wheeler Steward**

Jeffrey Stone, DO, FAAP

Mary Tedesco-Schneck, PhD, NP

Andrea Tracy, MD, FAAP

Aaron Wallace, MD*

*Resident Board Representatives

**Medical Student Representatives

Staff

Dee Kerry, BS Ed

Executive Director

Emily Belanger, RN, BSN

Admin & Project Coordinator

30 Association Drive, Box 190

Manchester, ME 04351

office: 207-480-4185

www.maineaap.org

Testimony in support of LD 168 – ‘An Act Regarding Criminal Background Checks for Sale, Transfer or Exchange of Firearms’

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Salisbury and distinguished members of the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety, my name is Dr. Dan Hale, a Kittery resident and board member of the Maine Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. I am writing in support of LD 168 – ‘An Act Regarding Criminal Background Checks for Sale, Transfer or Exchange of Firearms’.

As a father, pediatrician, and responsible firearm owner I support commonsense measures to prevent firearm violence. There is no “easy” unifying intervention that will end firearm violence, but there are several measures that can move us in the right direction of saving lives. These three Acts strengthen existing laws for safe transfer and sales of firearms without restricting the rights of responsible Maine hunters and sports enthusiasts.

There is a long history of responsible firearm ownership in Maine. Families have been hunting and fishing together for centuries. However, it is also true that rates of suicide are higher in homes with firearms and inappropriate access to firearms can endanger others. These legislative efforts are a good balance of protecting those rights while taking real steps to keep weapons from those seeking to cause harm. LD 22, 60 and 168 are all proposals that Maine citizens should be able to support.

Thank you for keeping our communities safe,

Dan Hale, M.D.,FAAP, SFHM