

Christopher Salzberg
Lewiston
LD 1557

Hello Committee Members,

I ask you to vote in favor of LD 1557 - An Act to Increase and Enhance School Safety by Allowing Individuals with Concealed Carry Permits to Possess Handguns on School Property.

Studies have found concealed carry permit holders are the most law-abiding citizens who have gone through a rigorous screening process to obtain their permits. They have demonstrated that they are responsible, trained, and trustworthy enough to carry firearms. Allowing concealed carry permit holders to carry firearms on school grounds would create a safer environment for students, teachers, and staff. In the event of an active shooter situation, a permit holder could potentially stop the threat and save lives. The threat is always stopped by a good guy with a gun.

There are already examples of states that allow concealed carry on school grounds and have not experienced any negative consequences as a result. In fact, studies have shown that crime rates decrease in areas where there are more concealed carry permit holders. Many schools in Maine already have school resource officers on campus, but it is not feasible for every school to have such resources. Private schools and some public schools don't have these police officers available to them. Allowing concealed carry permit holders to legally carry on school grounds would provide an additional layer of protection.

If we allow police officers to carry on school grounds then why can't we allow concealed carry permit holders. Studies have found that permit holders commit less crime than even police officers. There is no evidence or reason to restrict permit holders from protecting their children, schools, and communities. Please vote in favor of LD 1557. Thank you for your time.

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