



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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May 2, 2021

Testimony of Representative Poppy Arford

LD 1392, An Act Directing the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention To Release Annually Public Health Data Regarding Certain Fatalities and Hospitalizations. *Before the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services*

Greetings Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer, and members of the Health and Human Services Committee. I am Poppy Arford, Representative of District 49 in Brunswick. I'm writing to you today to testify in favor of [LD 1392, "An Act Directing the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention To Release Annually Public Health Data Regarding Certain Fatalities and Hospitalizations."](#)

I write in strong support of LD 1392. This is a straightforward, non-partisan bill that requires the sharing of public health information about gun deaths and injuries in a transparent and easily accessible manner. It requires the addition of public health data concerning firearm fatalities and injuries to the information presented in the Director of Maine's Center for Disease Control and Prevention annual report to the legislature. The data would be consolidated in one public report. The information would be available to all interested Mainers for review, and for developing policies and programs to address the public health impact.

According to Everytown For Gun Safety, there are, on average, 152 deaths each year in Maine - 90 percent from suicide. The rate of gun deaths increased 45% from 2010 to 2019, compared to a 17% increase nationwide. The rate of gun suicides increased 50%, compared to a 13% increase nationwide, according to the nonprofit organization. For further review of this information please [click here.](#)

This is a nonpartisan bill that provides for firearm information transparency. It does not regulate firearm sales and/or use. Rather, it will help Maine people better understand and effectively address firearm fatalities and injuries statewide.

Thank you for the time and attention you are giving to LD 1392. Your fair-minded and thoughtful response to this public health information bill is appreciated. Please vote ought- to- pass. Thank you.