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## Testimony 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

Esteemed Senator Brannigan, Representative Perry and members of the Health and Human Services Committee. My name is Dr. Laura Blaisdell and I reside in South Portland. I have been a practicing pediatrician in Maine for 15 years. I attended University of Minnesota Medical School; completed my pediatrics training at the Barbara Bush Children's Hospital at Maine Medical Center and I am currently the Vice-President of the Maine Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

As pediatricians, we ask parents questions to get information we need to ensure healthy development and safe practices. Without asking, we fly blind to preventing that which is easily prevented.

So I ask, how can we *prevent* gun injuries when we know little about those killed or injured during intentional shootings, homicides, suicides, and accidents? How do we even begin to address the modifiable factors when we aren't even aware about what those factors are?

A centralized, accurate, and complete data repository will allow physicians and researchers to study Maine's gun violence problem as the public health crisis it is. With this information, we will be in a better position to offer solutions, which are so very needed.

As gun violence continues to ravage our country and our children, LD 1392 offers a common-sense solution to begin understanding how to address it. Help give public health and health care providers they information they need to stop preventable deaths.

Respectfully,

Laura L Blaisdell MD/MPH, FAAP