

Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer, Members of the Committee on Health & Human Services:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of LD 1392. My name is Mark Segar, resident of Freeport. I regret that I cannot testify in person today.

As I understand it, this bill will help make Maine a safer place for all its citizens. It will direct state government, specifically the CDC, to gather and report to the Legislature data about accidents, injuries, and deaths related to firearms. It will give Maine citizens information that will help to inform public health policy and programs for the future.

Current reporting provides for more general and less frequent reporting. Annual and detailed information gathering and reporting practices can provide Maine with clear and up-to-date data on gun related accidents, injuries, and deaths each year.

Good information is vitally important to good public policy. There are many examples in recent history, from child welfare to automobile safety to environmental pollution. Today we have protective services for children, airbags to protect drivers, and majestic eagles and ospreys soaring once again above our rivers and bays. In each case, accurate information provided to legislators made an important difference.

The data collection and reporting called for in LD 1392 can help Maine to better understand risks, and respond accordingly. It is work worth doing, every year. Please support LD 1392.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark W. Segar (Freeport)

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