

Hillary Shende
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Senator Clayton, Representative Meyer, and distinguished members of the Health and Human Services Committee, my name is Hillary Shende from Brunswick. Thank you for hearing my testimony this morning.

I am here today in support of LD 1392 because information is vital to a functioning democracy. The more information we have, the better the decisions we can make as a state and as a country. With less information or with scattered information, legislators must become investigative journalists, hunting and pecking under various rocks in order to craft legislation to address the needs of our state.

This bill would formalize and centralize the reporting of firearm deaths and hospitalizations in the same way we formalize and centralize the reporting of opioid statistics. This information will then allow us to craft fact-informed legislation to address the question of how to prevent those deaths and hospitalizations. As a member of the public, I represent the majority of Mainers when I say we want evidence-based policies. Thank you.