

Anne M. Gallaudet  
Scarborough, Maine

March 22, 2025

Re: LD 424: An Act Concerning the Concealed Carrying of a Handgun by an Individual Who is 18 Years of Age but Under 21 Years of Age

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and Honorable Members of the Joint Judiciary Committee

I appreciate this opportunity to address you on this important matter. My name is Anne Gallaudet. I am a resident of Scarborough, Maine. I am writing *in opposition of* LD 424. Please vote “ought not to pass.”

I oppose this bill as it permits 18- to 20-year-olds to carry a loaded firearm without training and without adult supervision, unless otherwise prohibited. There are common sense reasons why this lowering of the age is unwise; the most obvious is that it is a detrimental to public safety.

Firearms are the leading cause of death of 18- to 20-year-olds. The firearm suicide rate among 18- to 20-year-olds has increased 31% in the last decade. This same age group commit gun homicides at triple the rate of adults who are 21 years of age or older.  
<https://everytownresearch.org/rankings/law/minimum-age-to-purchase/>

At 18, a young person can enter college, the military and/or the workforce. In all these settings, they can receive the proper training and supervision to become adults of good character and responsibility. LD 424 does not provide for such guardrails and will likely ensure worse statistics than that I provided above.

Thank you for considering my comment. I urge you to vote “ought not to pass” on LD 424.

Anne Gallaudet, Scarborough, ME