

Benjamin Staples
Windham, ME
LD 829

I am writing in strong support of LD 829, “An Act to Standardize the Laws Regarding the Carrying of Concealed Handguns in State Parks.”

This bill represents a simple but important correction to Maine law. It brings the rules governing our state parks in line with the rest of the state’s firearm policy — ensuring that law-abiding citizens who are legally allowed to carry concealed in Maine may do so without exception or confusion when visiting state-managed public lands. As it stands, Maine’s laws regarding concealed carry are largely clear and consistent, but state parks remain an exception.

Maine already recognizes the constitutional right of its residents to carry concealed without a permit. That principle should not stop at the boundary of a state park. LD 829 ensures that the rights of responsible citizens remain intact no matter where they are — whether walking through town, hiking a remote trail, or spending time in any state park.

This bill also addresses the real-world need for self-defense in remote areas. Many of Maine’s parks are rural and expansive, where access to emergency services is limited, and the response time for law enforcement can be significant. Prohibiting concealed carry in these locations leaves lawful citizens less able to defend themselves, their families, or others in the event of a threat. State parks should be no exception to the rights already granted in other public spaces.

LD 829 promotes legal clarity, safety, and consistency. It ensures that the rights already recognized by Maine law are respected equally in every part of the state, including its parks. It is a necessary and commonsense update to Maine’s concealed carry laws.

I urge the committee to support and pass LD 829 as a straightforward reaffirmation of Maine’s constitutional carry principles and its trust in responsible citizens to exercise their rights wherever they may be.