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April 15, 2025

Testimony in Support of LD 1299 “An Act to Prohibit the Unsecured Storage of Handguns in Motor Vehicles”

To: Sen. Carney, Rep. Kuhn, and Members of the Committee,

I am in strong support of LD 1299 because it will save lives and it does not infringe upon the Second Amendment or negatively impact Maine’s long standing hunting traditions.

In our family, our children, and grandchildren learn to use and store firearms, including handguns. Not all families in Maine share this approach to gun safety education.

Storing a gun in a locked, hard-sided container within a vehicle is just common sense. It prevents theft, when guns are left in vehicles. As one who was the victim of a car robbery, I now believe how easily it could happen. My car was parked in a Portland hotel garage. The thief smashed the window and took my handbag. Imagine if they had found a gun?

LD 1299 includes exemptions, makes the penalty a civil, not criminal violation, and as handguns are in a locked case, will not be immediately accessible should a temper flare out of control while driving.

Let us join California, Colorado, Delaware, Hawaii and New York in securing handguns in motor vehicles. Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of LD 1299 in your efforts to ensure the safety of all people in Maine.

Respectfully submitted,

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