

Margaret Duhamel
Woolwich
LD 1299

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and members of the committee, my name is Peg Duhamel and I live in Woolwich. I am a retired primary care doctor. My husband owns several guns and we are both gun safety advocates.

I am here to speak in favor of LD 1120 and LD 1299

I am testifying by zoom today because I was not allowed to bring my knitting needles into the State House for your safety and I didn't want to sit all day being unproductive.

During my career, I had two patients who had children who were victims of accidental gun violence because guns were not secured in the home. One boy died at approximately age 14, the other boy was blinded at age 16. The families never fully recovered from the trauma.

As you well know, firearms are the leading cause of death for children in the US. According to the Everytown Research and Policy website, when they compared the states head-to-head on the top 50 gun safety policies, a clear pattern emerged. States with strong laws see less gun violence. Indeed, the states that have failed to put basic protections into place have a rate of gun deaths two and a half times higher than the states that are national gun safety leaders. (<https://everytownresearch.org/rankings/>) The second amendment right is in no way being infringed upon by requiring that people keep their weapons carefully secured. Having such a law will reduce suicides, theft and accidental gun related injuries and deaths of both children and adults.

Thank you