

Amanda Scarpone  
Poland  
LD 1120

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Poland, Maine  
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To Members of the Judiciary Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee. My name is Amanda Scarpone, I am a resident of Poland, Maine, and I am a public health professional who works in the non-profit and philanthropy field. I am also a member of the Maine Public Health Association.

I am writing to you today in support of LD 1120, An Act to Promote the Secure Storage of Firearms. As a public health professional, I believe in the need for gun safety measures to protect us all. Maine has a strong culture of responsible gun ownership, but this does not free us from the risk and devastation of gun violence. This was unfortunately made clear in the tragic mass shooting in Lewiston, ME—a tragedy that has irrevocably altered many lives and our community as a whole.

There are ways that we can decrease the risk of gun violence in Maine, as well as decrease gun deaths by suicide. A clear method is through safe storage, which is promoted by LD 1120. Safe storage laws allow responsible gun owners to securely keep their firearms, while keeping firearms out of the hands of those who could intentionally or unintentionally do harm. Currently, more than half of gun owners do not securely store their firearms. When guns are not safely stored, it increases access to death by suicide using a firearm, accidental shootings in the home, and firearm theft and illicit activity. Maine has the 38th highest gun death rate in the US, and gun deaths in Maine have increased 50% from 2014-2023, and death by gun suicide has increased 34%. We can do more improve those grim statistics. We can do more to protect Mainers by preventing death by gun suicide, accidental gun deaths, as well as preventing firearm theft. LD 1120 is a clear policy to do just that.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee. I urge you to vote “Ought to Pass” on LD 1120.

Thank you,  
Amanda Scarpone