

June & Roy Smoot
Kennebunk
LD 1120

RE: LD 1120 "An Act to Promote the Secure Storage of Firearms"

Dear Sen. Carney and Rep. Kuhn, and all Judiciary Committee Members

First, please know how grateful we are for your devoted service for and to all people in Maine. What you do is vital to our state's safety, growth, security and health for every single Mainer, no matter our age, faith tradition, lifestyle, race, economic status or political party.

Next, we're providing our written testimony to strongly encourage you to vote "Ought to Pass" for LD 1120 "An Act to Promote the Secure Storage of Firearms" so it goes to both houses to then be approved and sent to Gov. Mills for her signature.

You have read of accidental shootings and killings in Maine and national newspapers, often involving children who get access to a parent's firearm. You have also read, and maybe even know, of someone who gained easy access to a firearm to commit suicide.

Safe storage of firearms has proven to save lives in America by minimizing accidental shootings and suicides. In fact, suicide is often a quick and/or rash reaction to an emotional or mental health crisis. Research has proven how suicides are prevented when a person in crisis doesn't have easy access to a firearm, because a person's self-rage, emotions or mental crisis begins to calm and even pass.

Safe storage is a moral responsibility of all gun owners, and supported by over 80% of gun owners, law enforcement and the medical professionals. Actions proposed in LD 1120 will no doubt save lives without infringing on firearm owners' rights. It will also save untold heartbreaks of Maine families.

Thank you for supporting LD 1120 to save lives and doing what is the right thing to do for Mainers. Maybe LD 1120 will save someone in your community or even your family.