

Margaret Duhamel  
Woolwich  
LD 1743

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and members of the committee, my name is Margaret Duhamel and I live in Woolwich. I am a retired physician and I have lived and worked in Maine for 37 years.

I am writing in support of LD1743, an Act to allow municipalities to prohibit firearms at municipal buildings, voting places and at municipal proceedings.

As I testified in person last month, I was not able to bring knitting needles into the State House when I came to testify. I know many of you think that is silly, but clearly the people protecting you have either precedent or good reasons for prohibiting them. This act will give a similar sense of security to local government workers as well as to the general public when they gather for voting or town meetings.

It's a coincidence that I heard about this bill just today. I was at a town meeting in Woolwich last night and wondered if anyone there had a gun. I was sitting in the very back and had a thought that if there was a shooter, it would be very hard for me to reach the exits. I literally made a note to sit closer to an exit at the next meeting. It is sad that I have to think this way, but in our current situation, it is not particularly paranoid thinking, it's just a good strategy. So I urge you to support this bill and help keep our local officials and the public safer.

Thank you.