

Bruce Ashmore
Bucksport

Good morning members of the committee.

I am writing you today to voice my position of opposition to making a random patchwork of gun free zones here in Maine and request a vote of Ought not to pass.

Gun free zones have not, do not and can never do what proponents of them claim they can. The myth that declaring people in a certain area or building will be safer or more secure by simply placing a sign or poster on the door or in a window is nothing more than wishful thinking at best and deadly for the people there at worst.

A percentage of the people in Maine carry for personal protection, including poll workers, 365 days of the year. I don't know a single one of them that hopes to ever need to use it. Being an instructor for the very course they take to get a permit means that I have personally met many of them. By declaring a polling place gun free would strip many of them for the day of one of their basic human rights, the right to self-defense. We vote on the way to or from work or when we're out and about for other reasons as well. Imagine walking up to the door of a polling place and being greeted by a sign or person that says we don't want you here. The time it would take to go back home and put it away (Many of us will never leave a firearm unattended in a vehicle) could mean we can't vote or miss work.

Going back to my first statement, GFZs don't work and by declaring them at polling places with out adding TSA type checkpoints and or armed security at every single polling place to protect those inside does nothing but create large groups ripe for the picking of some deranged lunatic bent on an evil, atrocious act of violence.

Please vote ought not to pass on this bill

Respectfully,
Bruce Ashmore