



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Testimony of Representative Kyle R. Bailey in Support of LD 805 Before the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government

Sen. Baldacci, Rep. Matlack and distinguished members of the State and Local Government Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of LD 805, "An Act To Allow Municipalities To Prohibit Firearms at Voting Places."

I was eight years old when my grandfather first taught me how to fire a gun. I enjoyed shooting handguns with him on our family farm and practicing with my own BB gun. Growing up, my family did not hunt; however, I recently completed my hunter's education online and will soon be applying for a license. I look forward to hunting deer, turkey, and other game with friends.

I strongly believe in the right of law-abiding citizens to keep and bear arms. I also believe that with great freedom comes great responsibility, and recognize that freedoms are not absolute.

There are times and places in our society when and where the presence of deadly weapons are simply inappropriate. The Supreme Court has made it clear that legislators have the ability to keep at least some public and sacred spaces safe and free from the presence of guns.

The polling place on election day is a sacred place. There should never be actual or perceived intimidation of voters at polling places by individuals carrying deadly weapons. LD 805 grants local election administrators the power to prohibit this form of intimidation at polling places without undermining the right of law-abiding citizens to keep and bear arms.

I urge the Committee to vote *ought to pass* on this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your thoughtful consideration.