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To: Members of the Committee on State and Local Government

I am writing to express my strong support of LD 805, An Act to Allow Municipalities to Prohibit Firearms at Voting Places.

This bill is not gun control but rather a common sense approach to protecting the safety of citizens during one of our most cherished and important civic responsibilities -- voting.

The bill does not mandate that any municipal officers do anything. Instead it gives them the choice to prohibit guns at polling places. Just as the Legislature has chosen to prohibit guns in the State House, municipal officials should have the right to choose to prohibit guns in polling places.

It is hard to imagine why a gun owner would be harmed by having to leave his or her gun at home while he or she goes to vote on election day. This bill will not interfere with hunting or target shooting. It will simply leave it up to municipal officials to make the decision whether a particular community is better off requiring guns to be left home on election day. Surely, no one would suggest that a gun owner has a constitutional right to carry a gun into a polling place.

Thank you for your consideration.