

Martin Jackson
Wiscasset

Honorable Members of the Committee,

I oppose LD805 for the following reasons;

I am a legal, permanent resident (LPR) of the United States, my nationality is British (by birth). Being an LPR, I am legally allowed to own firearms here just as most United States citizens are. I lived 42 years of my life in the United Kingdom where since late 1997, handguns have generally been banned.

I have seen first hand how a government has steadily chipped away at the rights of law abiding gun owners, their rights chipped away to the point where it is now very difficult to legally own even a shotgun or a rifle. Along with chipping away the rights to own a firearm, the UK government also eroded the rights of its people to defend themselves, even when faced with a firearm, knife or any type of deadly weapon.

I have seen many news articles in the UK where defenseless citizens have been mowed down by cars, trucks and vans, pushed in front of trains, stabbed and beheaded by terrorists both foreign and domestic and have seen/heard endless counts of women being raped and murdered (along with their children) simply because they had no means of defending themselves. These things happened in a defenseless, 'gun free' society.

I have lived full time in the United States since November of 2015. During my time here I have witnessed an endless assault of the rights of lawful, decent gun owners. I have seen endless attempts at trying to undermine a persons right to carry a firearm.

Terrorists and maniacs go for easy targets, it is not in their interest to try and take on a bunch of armed citizens so they go for targets like schools, shopping malls and crowds at concerts or national monuments, knowing the people there will generally be unarmed. Standing in line, waiting to vote should not be added to that list, nor should anywhere else.

I for one feel very safe around fellow gun owners. I know that wherever I am, I have the means to defend myself and others or be defended by others if the worst should happen. Taking away yet another place where law abiding people cannot defend themselves, only helps the people who would intend to hurt them in the first place. Criminals do not obey the law, however it is written.

If any of you have never owned, held or fired a gun, I would urge you to attend a gun safety class run by a qualified instructor. You will learn much about the law, what you can and cannot do and it would offer you a degree of first hand knowledge of gun handling and gun safety. I feel this is a perfectly reasonable suggestion to make, so that you, in turn could make a more informed choice when it come to gun related bills. Where a person has little or no knowledge of a subject, it is in their interest to gain knowledge by means of a tutor who is well versed in the subject.

I urge you all to vote "Ought not to pass" on this bill and maintain the rights of law abiding citizens to defend themselves.