

April 12, 2022

Oppose LD 805 - An Act To Allow Municipalities To Prohibit Firearms at Voting Places

Members of the Committee on State and Local Government

My name is Jamie Robinson. I am a resident of Turner and a citizen of the State of Maine. I urge you, in the strongest possible terms, to oppose LD 805 - An Act To Allow Municipalities To Prohibit Firearms at Voting Places.

The State of Maine, in its wisdom, preempts local authority to prohibit firearms. This prevents an unwieldy patchwork of regulation across the state and reduces the likelihood that an otherwise law-abiding citizen could unknowingly occupy a prohibited area. If enacted, this legislation would enable such a patchwork.

As legislators, surely you must be wise enough to understand that you cannot just legislate evil from the earth. Evil people simply do not care about the law. Creating so-called "gun-free zones" means that only the law-abiding are gun free; it has no effect on the criminal element. Many criminals, being of a cowardly nature, are attracted to such "gun-free zones" as moths to a candle because they clearly understand this!

I'm curious about the convoluted thinking that has led to this proposal. Does Maine have a high incidence, or even any incidence of criminal threatening at polling places? Is there random brandishing of weapons at town meetings? What exactly are you afraid of? Are you prepared to station armed security at every polling place and other location where firearms are prohibited to protect the citizens whom you have now rendered defenseless? If the answers to these questions are vague, or "No", then this ill-advised initiative isn't about public protection at all, it's about control, and when political entities are concerned about control, quite likely it's because they believe that their proposed agendas will not be well received by those whom they are supposed to govern. We have only to look to Venezuela to see how well this has worked for the populace there.

Our existing system of State preemption works very well. Do not take yet another step toward turning our beloved State of Maine into another "nanny-state" socialist cesspool. Do not take the chance of risking innocent lives and criminalizing gun-owners by enabling creation of myriad "gun-free zones". Remember that for the criminal element, every so-called "gun-free zone" is, in fact, a free-fire zone where they have few concerns about armed resistance. As you well know, Maine is statistically the safest State in these United States. I urge you to uphold your sworn duty to the citizens of Maine to keep it that way and oppose LD 805.

Jamie Robinson