

SAM-ILA (Institute for Legislative Action)

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Testimony – Opposition

LD 805, An Act to Allow Municipalities to Prohibit Firearms at Voting Places Presented by David Trahan, Executive Director of SAM-ILA April 12, 2021

The honorable Senator Baldacci, Representative Matlack, members of the State and Local Government Committee, my name is David Trahan, Executive Director of the SAM Institute for Legislative Action and I am testifying in opposition to LD 805, An Act to Allow Municipalities to Prohibit Firearms at Voting Places.

There are nearly 500 municipalities in Maine, if this bill passes it will cause an immediate gun control debate at the local level and a hodgepodge of firearm policy from town to town. We are not really sure why this is an issue as we haven't heard there is a problem.

Currently, we field calls every week from citizens interested in creating Second Amendment sanctuary cities and towns. I can foresee very contentious debates all across Maine between Second Amendment supporters and those interested in broader gun control. Unless there is a specific problem this bill seeks to address, I ask the committee this simple question. Do you really want to go there?