



Our Mission

Maine Gun Safety Coalition promotes responsible gun ownership in order to create a safer Maine.

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Senator Rosen, Representative Warren, distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety, my name is Nick Wilson and I am the Executive Director of the Maine Gun Safety Coalition. I appreciate the opportunity to testify in opposition of LD 1469.

LD 1469 is an extreme bill that threatens the right of businesses and homeowners to decide if they want to allow or restrict the carrying of firearms by customers and guests. If a business or homeowner chooses to prohibit guns on their property, they can be sued if anything bad happens on their property such as a wild animal attack, or "artificial and natural hazards." The language is written so broadly that it doesn't require proof that a gun could have made a difference.

Research shows that carrying more guns in public will lead to increased gun violence - including accidents, suicides, domestic violence. We should respect the rights of property owners who sincerely believe that their families are safer without guns in the home. Encouraging expensive and contentious litigation between friends and neighbors is a poor way to promote public safety.

Concealed carry laws and the elimination of "gun-free zones" do not deter mass shootings. According to an FBI investigation of 160 active shooting incidents between 2000 and 2013, only one incident was stopped by a concealed carry permit holder - who was a well-trained Marine. According to a 2016 study examining 111 mass shootings with six or more victims between 1966 and 2015, nearly 90% of gun massacres occurred in places where firearms were allowed and 86% of the time the attacker had a relationship to the victims. According to a study by researchers at Stanford and Johns Hopkins, laws allowing more citizens to carry concealed weapons were associated with an 8% increase in aggravated assaults.

If the sponsors of this bill were truly concerned for public safety, they would flip the bill and make businesses liable if they did allow guns and a shooting happened. The best academic evidence shows that more people carrying concealed weapons leads to increased rates of aggravated assaults and murder. Businesses and homeowners should be free to decide how best to protect their customers and employees from gun violence.