



JAMES L. MADARA, MD
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, CEO

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February 5, 2019

The Honorable Ben Chipman
Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Taxation
Maine State Senate
State House, Room 127
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

The Honorable Ryan Tipping
Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Taxation
Maine House of Representatives
State House, Room 127
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Re: AMA support for LD 85

Dear Senator Chipman and Representative Tipping:

On behalf of the American Medical Association (AMA) and our physician and medical student members, I am writing to express our support for Legislative Document 85 (L.D. 85), a bill which would create a sales tax exemption and income tax deduction for the purchase of firearm safety devices.

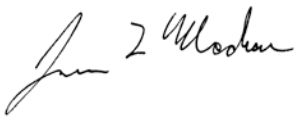
With more than 38,000 deaths each year, gun violence is a major public health crisis. Recent studies have shown that deaths by firearms are at their highest levels in decades and have become the second leading cause of death for children. Tragically, these deaths are entirely preventable. We must all work together to find common-sense approaches to reduce firearm-related injuries and deaths in our communities.

Fortunately, gun safety is one area in which we can all agree. Safe storage measures, such as those that are incentivized by L.D. 85, are an important piece of a comprehensive public health approach to preventing gun injuries and deaths. The AMA has long-standing policy on firearm safety and injury prevention, including extensive policy encouraging the use of safety devices such as gun locks, trigger locks, locked gun cabinets, drop safety pins and loading indicators. We believe this legislation will help save lives.

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We applaud you for your leadership on this important issue and thank you for the opportunity to express our support. If the AMA can be of assistance, please contact Annalia Michelman, JD, AMA Advocacy Resource Center, at annalia.michelman@ama-assn.org or (312) 464-4788.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James L. Madara". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "M".

James L. Madara, MD

cc: Maine Medical Association