



**NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA  
INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION  
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Lauren E. LePage  
State Director

## **MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT**

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**DATE:** February 6, 2019

**TO:** Honorable Members of the Joint Committee on Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

**FROM:** Lauren E. LePage

**RE:** LD 79 – An Act to Protect Shooting Ranges

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Senator Dill, Representative Nadeau, members of the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries & Wildlife, on behalf of the thousands of members of the National Rifle Association in Maine, I would like to express our strong support for LD 79 (Corey-R); an act to protect shooting ranges.

LD 79, sponsored by Representative Patrick Corey (R-Windham), seeks to protect “sport shooting ranges” from legal actions restricting or prohibiting range uses by allowing the discharge of a firearm on a sport shooting range that is within 100 yards of a building - if the range was established and in regular operation prior to the erection of the building.

If a sport shooting range was in regular operation, prior to the existence of the building, the range should not have to be threatened with court fees, hiatus or closure of operation, resulting from the construction of a small building which was constructed after the shooting range was in existence. This bill would not, however, immunize a range from actions claiming negligent or reckless operation or use.

Firearm ranges are intended to help direct shooters to venues that they can use in order to practice their shooting skills in a safe, responsible environment. If a range is otherwise in full compliance with the law and in regular operation, they should not be forced to close their doors because someone constructs a structure within 100 yards.

Maine gun owners, sportsmen and women, strongly urge you to support LD 79. Please feel free to contact me at (703) 267-1243 if you have additional questions or concerns. Thank you for your careful consideration in this matter.