

Testimony for the 131th Session of the Maine State Legislature

Joint Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety

Public Hearing April 4, 2023

LDs 22, 60 and 168: **OUGHT TO PASS**

Chairpersons Senator Anne Beebe- Center and Representative Suzanne Salisbury and members of the Committee, my name is Suzanne Rudalevige; I am retired and living in Cape Elizabeth.

I am encouraged that these proposals are before you today.

I am very much in favor of trying to prevent firearms being in the hands of those who should not be permitted to use them. **LD 22**

I am particularly in favor of LD 168 which requires criminal background checks of buyers of firearms for private sales, transfers or exchanges at gun shows or private sales, transfers or exchanges through advertising or marketing, subject to certain exceptions. We must require background checks on ALL potential gun buyers.

The 72 hour delay under **LD 60** would be much strengthened if it also used that time for a background check - as well as giving time for anger to cool when the gun is intended for harming another.

I must admit that having been raised in the UK, even after 57 years in the USA, I cannot understand this country's obsession with firearms. It seems totally irrational to allow military style weapons to be in the hands of the public.

However, it is what it is, leaving the prevention of these guns falling into the wrong hands being our major tool for saving us from the senseless carnage we see across the land. (How many mass killings have there been already this year?)

Limitation on gun ownership has, in my mind, nothing to do with owning a firearm for hunting- it is NOT a slippery slope. We are not talking about hunting rifles, but guns which are manufactured ONLY for killing other people. The focus is on keeping these guns out of the hands of those who are a risk of killing other people.

Please recommend for passage each of these bills or a combination bill, so that we do the best we can to have every gun owner checked and everyone responsible for not passing on a gun to someone who is a risk for irresponsible use.

Thank you.