Caroline Culbertson Pownal LD 551

Testimony of Caroline Culbertson (Pownal, Maine) before the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee,

in OPPOSITION to LD 551 An Act to Strengthen Maine Citizens' Second Amendment Rights by Allowing the Discharge of Firearms on Private Property That Is Within 500 Feet of School Property in Certain Circumstances,

Research shows that when more people are carrying firearms in public, violent crime rates rise. We all want to keep our families safe, so firearms should not be allowed within 500 feet of school property where children are playing and learning.

Additionally, an overwhelming majority of law enforcement officers agree that armed citizens in or near places like schools would make their jobs harder.

Please vote "ought not to pass" on this bill. We should be tightening gun laws, not loosening them, when gun related deaths have now become the LEADING cause of death for children and teens.