

Janet Lynch  
Pownal  
LD 1561

I am very concerned about LD 1561, “ An Act to Restore Firearm Rights and Hunting Privileges to Persons Previously Convicted of Certain Nonviolent Felony Crimes.” I note that the recent mass shootings in Bowdoin and Yarmouth were carried out by an individual who had recently been released from prison, and who had a history of violence. Perhaps I am missing something, but I do not see an exemption for those convicted of domestic violence for example, or those under restraining orders. Generally, I am concerned that the definition of “Certain Nonviolent Felony Crimes” may not be specific enough to prevent guns from getting into the hands of those with a proven history of violence and a willingness to use them for violent ends. The committee must carefully weigh the dangerous potential for deadly harm to the public when allowing previously convicted felons to own guns, and should seek more information about which kinds of felonies may be here exempted. I do not believe this bill should pass.