

Miranda Gallo
Yarmouth
LD 551

Testimony of Miranda Gallo before the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee in OPPOSITION to LD551 - 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.

Distinguished members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee, my name is Miranda Gallo and I am a resident of Yarmouth. When I heard of a shelter in place order due to an active shooter down the road from my house I instantly thought of my daughter and a need to confirm her safety. That she was safe at daycare in Portland, not in Yarmouth, was little comfort knowing of the multiple school shootings that occur in otherwise “safe” communities. That weapons of mass murder are legal in this country allows for this most primal fear that our children and their caregivers could be shot to death to have merit.

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

Thank you for your time and consideration. This is not a matter of freedom – the freedom to own guns is not at question here, it is a matter of safety and common sense.

Sincerely,
Miranda Gallo