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**Testimony in Opposition to LD 1696:
"An Act to Create a Civil Cause of Action for Persons Suffering Damages Arising from the
Sale of Abnormally Dangerous Firearms"**

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and distinguished members of the Committee on Judiciary, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding LD 1696.

As stated in its naming, this bill seeks to create a cause of action against a firearm manufacturer or distributor for the misuse of a firearm after sale or manufacture. Beyond the negative implications for Maine's many firearm manufacturers and distributors this bill is inherently flawed.

One of the definitions of an abnormally dangerous firearm under this bill is "The firearm-related product's features render the product most suitable for assaultive purposes instead of lawful self-defense, hunting or other legitimate sport and recreational activities."

This vague definition offers zero insight as to exactly what an 'abnormally dangerous firearm' is. Furthermore this bill is contradictory stating "A firearm-related product may not be considered abnormally dangerous and likely to create an unreasonable risk of harm to public health and safety based on a firearm's inherent capacity to cause injury or lethal harm."

How can one define an 'abnormally dangerous firearm' because it is used for 'assaultive purposes' but then state that firearms are inherently capable of causing injury or lethal harm. All firearms are inherently dangerous if used improperly and all firearms are capable of being used for 'assaultive purposes.'

Because of the vague definitions in this bill, all firearms can be deemed 'abnormally dangerous.' This bill would cause immense harm to the many responsible gun dealers in Maine. Please vote ought not to pass on LD 1593.