

Austin Marie Dow
Standish ME
LD 2119

My name is Austin Marie, and I am a young woman (26) originally from Falmouth, ME, and currently residing in Standish with my husband. I am an avid outdoors woman, and enjoy the outdoors of Maine.

I have been active in engaging with the local Maine and National congress in the past, and know many of the different Senators and Representatives in the Maine congress, including Representative Heidi Sampson, previous Representative Patrick Corey, Representative Stephen Moriarty, (who greatly helped me during the pandemic!) Senator Jim Libby, and previous Representative Ellie Espling, who is also a personal acquaintance of mine.

I am also an avid firearms enthusiast, and am passionate about training myself and also helping other women learn how to be their own first responder, and safely train/educate themselves on safe firearms usage and defense. I worked at the firearms counter at Cabela's in Scarborough for 4 years, as the first and only female to work in that position of directly educating and selling firearms to customers of all ages and genders.

I am writing to testify against LD 2119, for the following reasons.

This bill, while well-meaning in it's title, is problematic because people can be coerced into giving up their rights, and there is no path outlined for someone to follow should they change their minds, or improve their mental health, get to a healthy mental space again, and want their ownership rights back.

For women who are in a domestic violence situation, where a restraining order is simply a piece of paper, this may be a life or death situation where they are unable to defend themselves due to waiving their rights to own a firearm 10 years earlier.

Thank you for your time, please do not support this bill.

Austin Marie.