

Austin Marie Dow
Standish ME
LD 2086

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 2086. Before I go into that, I would like to state several things regarding the Lewiston shooting.

We already had a system in place to arrest him before the shooting... and it wasn't used. The yellow flag law (that they promised would save lives) was also not used. His son went to the school and told them it was going to happen and nothing was done. His family asked for help and didn't get any.

The police dropped the ball, the military dropped the ball and the mental health facilities dropped the ball. People were killed because people didn't do their jobs. By your (your being the sponsors of this bill) OWN admission in a press conference this week, it was admitted that these new proposals and bills would have made no impact on the Lewiston tragedy.

Maine has a Mental Health problem... let's fix it.

Maine has a drug problem... let's fix it.

Maine has a domestic violence problem... let's fix It.

Maine DOES NOT HAVE A GUN PROBLEM. We have 3xs as many guns in Maine as people. Even after Lewiston, we are still statistically the safest state in the Union. We need the laws on the books ENFORCED.

If the same amount of effort, money, and time was put into enforcing the current laws that already exist as is being put into this new bill, the Lewiston shooting WOULD NOT HAVE HAPPENED.

If the necessary funding is not in place to allow for the enforcement of current law, this is something that needs to be addressed at a budgetary level, rather than restricting the rights of Maine citizens and making more laws that will not be enforced, as the current laws were not enforced.

As written, this bill would ban legally and commonly owned firearm parts. This could include certain firearm parts, competition triggers and other commonly performed trigger modifications used in a wide array of legal activities, including shooting sports, hunting and self-defense.

This will not stop future shooting from happening. It will only tie the hands of the currently law abiding citizens.

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

Austin Marie.