

Testimony before the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

LD 2224 An Act to Strengthen Public Safety by Improving Maine's Firearm Laws and Mental Health System

March 7, 2024

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Amanda Scarpone, and I am a resident of Poland, Maine. I am testifying in support of LD 2224, An Act to Strengthen Public Safety by Improving Maine's Firearm Laws and Mental Health System.

I write to you as someone with a Public Health Background, a member of the Maine Public Health Association, and a longtime Maine resident. From my Public Health background, evidence proves that gun violence is a top crisis to the nation's public health. And as a member of our Maine community, as well as a teacher, a sister, a wife, and an Auntie, I want our neighbors to be safe. I saw the sense of safety shattered in Sandy Hook, Connecticut, when I was working in its neighboring town a decade ago. And I saw that same fear and trauma come to Maine this fall, with a mass shooting that, by all means, could have been prevented.

As neighbors, as a community, we should be doing ALL we can to prevent these tragedies from reoccurring. We should be ensuring our students are safe in schools. We should be ensuring we can meet friends out for recreation. We can make Mainers safer with common sense gun policy. Policy that respects the rights of law-abiding gun owners, while also keeping each other safe. LD 2224 is such a policy, and I urge you to support it.

We cannot wait a day longer to ensure our safety. It has already been too long.

With respect and gratitude,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amanda Scarpone". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

Amanda Scarpone