

Sally Chappell
Pax Christi Maine
LD 2086

Hello Sen. Carney, Rep. Moonen and honorable members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Sally Chappell; I live in Bridgton and am a member of Pax Christi Maine. On behalf of Pax Christi Maine, the Catholic peace and justice movement with members throughout the State of Maine, I'd like to testify in favor of LD 2086, An Act to Ensure Safe Disposition of Forfeited Firearms. With Pax Christi Maine's firm commitment to non-violence, the provisions of this bill would reduce the likelihood of a mass shooting incident which the people of Maine experienced last year in Lewiston. Semi-automatic assault weapons and weapons using bump stocks have military-level killing capabilities and should have no place in a civilian setting. Even Maine hunting laws forbid the use of weapons with this lethal capacity.

I value my membership in Pax Christi Maine along with my membership in Maine Veterans for Peace. On Killing: The Psychological Cost of Learning to Kill in War and Society is a book written by Lt. Col. Dave Grossman, a former U.S. Army Ranger, paratrooper and psychology professor at West Point. We do know that the training of soldiers has improved since World War II making presently trained soldiers more efficient killers. People are naturally averse to killing, but training can overcome the aversion. As Dave Grossman argues persuasively, the psychological cost to overcoming the aversion to kill comes with a heavy cost both for the individual and for society. PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) is common in our society both as a result of war but also as a result of abusive treatment in childhood. Victims of PTSD are often plagued with signals that are mistaken as danger even when the perceived danger is non-existent.

Semi-automatic assault weapons and firearms with bump stocks should not be available to ordinary citizens as they make mass shootings easier to perpetrate by people whose neurological status has been severely altered.

Thank you for your time reading and considering this testimony. Pax Christi Maine urges you to vote "ought to pass" on LD 2086.