

Remy Schneider
Portland
LD 2086

Distinguished Members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Remy Schneider, from Portland. I am writing to urge you to vote "ought to pass" for LD 2086. It's a good start, thanks to Senator Carney, but the bill does not go far enough. We need a total ban on all assault weapons.

Did you know that in Maine it is illegal to hunt migratory birds with a gun that can hold more than 3 shells at a time. At the same time, it is legal, in Maine, for any person, from anyplace, to purchase an AR-15 from an unlicensed seller, that can, has, and will be again, used to shoot people - school children - at a rate of 45 rounds per minute. If modified with a bump stock (also currently legal), the rate goes up to 400 rounds per minute. With this power, humans on the other end don't stand a chance. The children in the schoolroom have no time to run.

There is no reason for this weapon to be available to the general public. Bottom line. It is not a 2nd Amendment issue. This has nothing to do with the 2nd Amendment. It is a basic, common sense, safety measure. The AR-15 is meant to kill people. It is meant to destroy human tissue with as much carnage as possible, so that parents can't even identify their children, except by the shoes that they were wearing when they left for school that morning. It's about placing a value on human life and protecting the community. There is no place for weapons of mass destruction in our communities and there is unequivocally no reason to have one.

The local governments' response to the Lewiston shooter was interesting. We, as a society, gave him his assault weapons. He obtained them legally. And then, gosh, he actually used them! For what they were designed for. And then the communities, leaders, our governor, were all shocked and saddened and issued shelter in place orders. So we just dropped everything, can't even go outside our houses, because a person who obtained his weapons legally actually decided to use them. In what world does this make sense.

Please don't wait for another massacre to occur, because it will if you wait long enough. Please don't make me have to identify the body of my 5 year old, or your teenager, or someone else's child, by their shoes because their body has been blown to bits. Please vote "ought to pass" for LD 2086 and please make an even stronger bill that completely bans all assault weapons, AR-15s, and bump stocks. Please provide at least as much protection for Maine's school children, as you do for it's birds.