

Caroline Ahonen
Portland Maine
LD 2086

To the members of the Judiciary committee:

My name is Caroline Ahonen, and I am a resident of Portland Maine. I am submitting written testimony because I think LD.2086 ought to pass.

Warren E. Burger, conservative judge for the U.S. Supreme Court from 1969-1986, in a 1991 article for the Associated Press, stated:

"The Second Amendment does not guarantee every person the unfettered constitutional right to have a machine gun."

He explains the historical context and the true meaning of the Second Amendment - the right of states to form a well regulated militia as the framers had a great fear of a standing national army.

The Second Amendment has nothing to do with individual gun ownership. In 1791 people didn't need this as a guaranteed right anyways - nearly everyone owned a musket for hunting or personal protection - it was a part of everyday life, like owning a car.

But here we are in 2024. Machine guns have replaced muskets. In 2017 one gunman with bump stock equipped rifles killed 60 people and wounded hundreds more at a Las Vegas music festival. ONE GUNMAN.

Dozens of mass shootings - all using the same weaponry - assault rifles. Innocent people giving up their lives as deranged individuals exercise their non existent constitutional right to a weapon of war.

Legislative bodies continuing to wring their hands and state that they are powerless to make laws to protect the citizenry for some bogus interpretation of the Second Amendment foisted on America by the gun lobby.

I take the time to write to you today because I have a 5 year old grandson. He will begin public school in kindergarten next year. I fear he may lose his life in a school shooting. This is a real and valid fear as the next school shooting/mass killing is not a question of if but when and where.

For this reason I support a ban on all assault weapons and gun conversion devices which enable a single gunman to massacre and terrorize hundreds of schoolchildren.

I thank Senator Carney for LD.2086, but this is not enough. Mass shootings need to stop and as legislative body it is your job to make the weapons used illegal.

Lawmakers must act to ban the sale and transfer of assault weapons and high capacity magazines in Maine.

I plead with you to do your part so that my grandson does not die in the next school shooting here in Portland Maine.

Thank you for your service to the people of Maine.

Caroline Ahonen, Portland Maine