

TO: The Honorable Anne Carney
The Honorable Matt Moonen
Members of the Judiciary Committee

DATE: March 5, 2024

RE: An Act to Amend the Law Governing the Disposition of Forfeited Firearms

Good morning, Senator Carney and Representative Moonen,

My name is Emilia Toth. I'm a resident of Portland and a member of the League of Women Voters Youth Council. I have been closely following the proposed gun safety bills for this session, and I am testifying Ought to Pass on LD 2086.

I am a young person who has already seen gun violence hit close to home on several occasions. I grew up in Nashville, TN, and was shaken by the Covenant School shooting in May 2023, which took place 7 minutes away from where I attended high school. I moved to Maine and immediately felt safer, but the Lewiston shooting of October 2023 destroyed the feeling of safety that exists in this wonderful state I now call home.

I have been advocating for gun safety since 2016 and am still full of hope for state legislature that could make our communities safer, despite the lack of governmental action that has been taken. LD 2086 would ban devices that turn semi-automatic weapons into lethal machine guns, allowing for a rapid succession of shots that have been seen in some of the deadliest mass shootings in the US, like the Route 91 Harvest Music Festival in Las Vegas (2017). While machine guns have been tightly regulated, bump stocks and other add-on devices have not. They are too accessible, and the banning of sale, purchase, and transfer would ensure a decrease in mass shootings involving automatic weapons.

I am glad that our state lawmakers have stepped up to introduce a ban on bump stocks while this is being debated at the federal level. Every little action taken to achieve gun safety is a big step towards the decrease of gun violence statewide. I urge you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 2086.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Emilia Toth