

Janice Vance
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LD 2086

Good morning, Senator Carney, Rep. Moonen, and members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Janice Vance and I live in Kennebunk. I would like to thank Senator Carney for this bill, which would bring Maine law into line with Federal law. We know that the 2017 Las Vegas shooter had 13 rifles fitted with bump stocks, which enabled him to very efficiently murder 58 people and injure 800 others in the space of 11 minutes. We also know that gun manufacturers will do just about anything to increase or at least maintain their profit margins, and their most profitable firearms are rapid-fire assault weapons. It is my fervent hope you will deem LD 2086 as "ought to pass" but will also introduce legislation to prohibit the sale and transfer of assault weapons, which are overly dangerous even when not fitted with accessories such as bump stocks. We lost 18 members of our Maine community in just one tragic evening in October to a deranged and angry white man using an assault weapon. I am still personally haunted by the fact 20 first-graders and six teachers and administrators were murdered in just over 4 minutes by a deranged and angry young white man using a Bushmaster Model XM15-E2S at Sandy Hook School, which was a mile from where I worked at the time. The ONLY use for this type of weapon is to kill and maim as many humans as possible in as little time as possible. And I am tired of politicians who, instead of trying to protect human lives, are instead focused on protecting gun industry profits. Senator Carney, thank you for efforts to keep us safe, and thank you for your hard work during this legislative session.