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LD 2086

As a mother, grandmother and former teacher, I am writing to state my support for real, common sense gun control legislation for Maine. I support LD 2086 with today's proposed amendment and hope you will support it, however it does not go far enough.

I agree with limiting access to devices that effectively turn semi-automatic weapons into fully-automatic machine guns, but the amendment is not enough to deal with the imminent threat posed by the easy access to assault weapons and high-capacity magazines in Maine. I encourage the committee to amend it to include an assault weapon and high capacity magazine ban, as supported by major national medical and public health associations.

Increasing access to mental health services is critical but not enough. From experience we know that when assault weapons were banned fewer people die. We should not accept the current situation that causes children and adults to fear going to school, shopping or other community activities.

I urge you to act now to ban assault weapons, ban high capacity magazines and institute a 72-hour waiting period and a red flag law. It is past time to adequately address this problem. How many more must die from murder or suicide before we act?