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Winslow
LD 2086

As a father, grandfather and retired physician, I am writing to state my support for real, common sense gun control legislation for Maine. I was at the State House today but had to leave before the hearing started, and hope to return for Thursday's hearing.

I support LD 2086 with today's proposed amendment and I hope you will too, however, it does not go far enough.

Easy access to assault weapons and high-capacity magazines in Maine increases the potential for mass shooting and danger to law enforcement officers. I, and many other people I talk with, fear for the safety of our children and grandchildren at school and work or have reservations about going to public events or to malls or box stores.

My wife and I were about to attend an outdoor event in Waterville in the summer of 2022 but turned around when we saw a young man enter with a gun in an holster buckled to his waste. Children do active shooter drills at schools. First responders, medical personnel, teachers everyone is being traumatized at some level. How can any of us function well and maintain good health if we live with this kind of fear? We should no longer be living in the "wild, Wild West".

We know from past experience that when assault weapons were banned by Congress, gun deaths went down dramatically. When the assault weapons ban was allowed to expire, gun deaths went up dramatically. New York city's gun reforms also showed a big decrease in gun related crimes. It only makes sense. That is what we are asking for...common sense gun laws.

I also urge you to act now to institute a 72-hour waiting period, a red flag law and universal background checks. It is past time to thoroughly address gun violence before more people die from murder or suicide.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.