

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary.

My name is Emily Follo, and I am a Family Medicine physician in Portland, Maine.

This testimony is in support of LD 2086 - An Act to Amend the Law Governing the Disposition of Forfeited Firearms.

Gun violence is a growing public health concern. While I agree that mental health is an important contributing factor that needs to be addressed, I also believe that lives can be saved with common-sense measures to mitigate the damage that can be done by firearms. I am sympathetic to desires for self-defense and sport shooting, and those can be accomplished with guns that do not shoot hundreds of rounds of bullets per minute. I support this amended bill, and I also advocate for a full assault weapons ban, following the lead of 10 other states and the District of Columbia. Assault weapons have increased the number of lives lost in the country's deadliest mass shootings. Until firearms are no longer the leading cause of death of children and teens in the U.S., something needs to change.

Thank you very much for your consideration and your work on this important topic.