



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002
(207) 287-1400
TTY: MAINE RELAY 711

Kristen Cloutier

Assistant Majority Leader

33 Charles St.

Lewiston, ME 04240

Phone: (207) 807-1637

Kristen.Cloutier@legislature.maine.gov

March 5, 2024

Testimony of Rep. Kristen Cloutier in support of

LD 2086, An Act to Amend the Law Governing the Disposition of Forfeited Firearms

**LD 2119, An Act to Support Suicide Prevention by Allowing the Voluntary Waiver of
Firearm Rights**

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Kristen Cloutier, and I represent House District 94, which includes part of my hometown of Lewiston. I am honored to be the lead cosponsor on Senator Carney's bill before you today, **LD 2086, An Act to Amend the Law Governing the Disposition of Forfeited Firearms**, and cosponsor of **LD 2119, An Act to Support Suicide Prevention by Allowing the Voluntary Waiver of Firearm Rights**.

LD 2086 aligns state law with the federal definition of machine guns, which will help keep Mainers safe without undermining or infringing upon the right to bear arms.

Currently, Maine law requires that forfeited firearms used in the commission of a murder or unlawful homicide crime be destroyed by the State. This bill extends the requirement to all firearms that have been forfeited as mandated by the general sentencing provisions of the Maine Criminal Code.

Further, this bill would strengthen efforts to keep the weapons most commonly linked to mass shootings, like that in Lewiston, out of the hands of civilians. This includes semi-automatic firearms with bump stocks that help the firearm function like a machine gun.

By updating our laws to reflect federal rules and regulations, Maine can strengthen the enforcement of these federal laws by giving our state law enforcement agencies jurisdiction to act.

In addition to supporting LD 2086, I support LD 2119.

Suicide in Maine and across the United States is a public health crisis. According to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and Suicide Awareness Voices of Education, suicide is the 12th leading cause of death in Maine.

LD 2119 would allow someone to waive their right to purchase or receive a firearm by filing a voluntary and confidential waiver of firearm rights form. This voluntary waiver may be revoked at a later date, if desired.

Allowing Mainers to advocate for themselves when their mental health is suffering by limiting their own access to guns could help save the lives of those contemplating suicide.

As lawmakers, it is our responsibility to do everything in our power to ensure that a tragedy like the one that took place in my home community of Lewiston never happens again. LD 2086 and LD 2119 offer us opportunities to make sure that some of our most dangerous firearms are better regulated and that we put a stop to firearm-related suicide.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these two crucial bills.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kristen Cloutier". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small dot above the final letter.

Kristen Cloutier