

March 6, 2024

Testimony for LD 2086

To the Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

Please support LD 2086 and vote “Ought to Pass.” Gun violence has become the Number 1 public health crisis. We must summon the political will to take strong action. I am in support of a total ban on the sale and transfer of assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, but LD 2086 is a good start.

Gun violence has become a public health emergency, as evidenced by the two horrific mass shootings here in Maine—Bowdoin and Lewiston. On October 25, 2023, eighteen people were killed and thirteen more injured in Lewiston. Because I live just three miles from the mass shooting and because the shooter’s children attended public schools in our district, the impact of this tragedy rippled into my neighborhood where there were many social connections with the shooter, his family, and several victims. By banning assault weapons and the parts that allow weapons to be converted into mass killing machines, the Maine Legislature we can go a long way toward protecting public health and safety, and I urge you to do so in the strongest terms.

Maine law generally prohibits machine guns. However, it does not cover conversion devices that convert semi-automatic weapons into fully automatic machine guns.

I am a retired public school teacher with a forty-year career of service to children and young adults in the K-20 educational system. Since the multiple school shootings in our country including the gunning down of young children in their classroom at Sandy Hook Elementary, schools have instituted lock-down drills. I would like to see the legislature take swift and decisive action. Just think—it could be your child, grandchild, or beloved family member who is slaughtered next.

Public safety comes before an individual’s right to own military-style assault weapons that were designed for the battlefield. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Robin Brooks

She, hers

47 Ivanhoe Drive

Topsham, Maine 04086

207-232-9734

Addendum: (Courtesy of Maine Gun Safety Coalition)

The amendment to LD.2086 would do the following:

- • Update Maine law to include conversion devices (Bump stocks, Glock switches, and Auto sears) in the definition of “machine gun.”
- • This would bring state law into line with federal law, under which conversion devices are considered machine guns.

Robin Brooks
Topsham
LD 2086

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