

Julia Edwards
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Honorable Chair and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Julia Edwards, a resident of South Portland. I'm writing to express my support for the firearm-related bills before the committee:

Earlier this week, I watched my Father-in-Law testify in front of the Lewiston Shooting Commission. He survived the shooting at Spare Time Bowling, escaping without being physically harmed by the shooter. In that respect, we are so grateful and lucky he's still with us. However, the emotional and mental toll this horrific trauma has inflicted on him, and the ripple effects it has caused for our family, are serious and were, as it turns out, entirely avoidable.

I am in favor of any work the legislature can do to try and prevent future horror shows like Lewiston from happening. Any checks, roadblocks, bans on unnecessary equipment, increased safety measures, hurdles - ANYTHING that could potentially cause someone like the shooter to be unable to procure the kind of firearms he was able to procure here in Maine - do them.

I'm beyond devastated that we now have to prepare our children for when they inevitably hear about these kinds of events; they're 4 and 2 right now. I'm beyond heartbroken that when searching for pre-schools for our children, we felt compelled to ask every provider for their active-shooter/lockdown emergency plan. I'm beyond disgusted that so many signs were ignored, specifically relating to the Lewiston shooter. I'm beyond livid that now my children will have to learn that their beloved Papa went through the horror he experienced in October. He is forever changed, and that will play out in myriad ways we have yet to learn as our children grow up. Trauma is for life.

Warmest regards,
Julia