



LD 2119 and LD 2086 Supportive Testimony

Good afternoon Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary. My name is Angela Leclerc I am a Gorham resident and today I am testifying on behalf of the Maine Association of PAs (MEAPA) where I serve on the board of directors. MEAPA is testifying in support of [LD 2119](#) - An Act to Support Suicide Prevention by Allowing the Voluntary Waiver of Firearm Rights and [LD 2086](#) - An Act to Amend the Law Governing the Disposition of Forfeited Firearms.

I have been practicing as a Physician Assistant for 19 years in Maine, all in acute care with the majority of my practice in critical care. Unfortunately, I have borne witness to many life-changing injuries and deaths related to firearms. These life-changing events, where patients are left permanently injured or dead, have been both accidental and intentional. They have been both homicide and suicide. They have been elderly, middle-aged and young adults, and even children. I have had to tell parents, spouses and children that their loved one is deceased or forever maimed.

When I attending Lewiston High School, my friend struggled with mental health, unbeknownst to any of our friends and died by a self-inflicted gun wound. Another friend, a star football player and athlete, a standout student in all Advanced Placement classes, also died by self-inflicted gun wound. Two of my PA colleagues and two physician colleagues (and many more I didn't know) have died by self-inflicted gun wounds.

Maine had its first mass casualty event in 2023, killing 18 Maine citizens that you represent, with an AR-10, the same weapon used to kill 58 people in Las Vegas. AR-15s were used in Buffalo, Uvalde, Highland Park, Sutherland Springs, Texas and Boulder, Colorado.

In 1789, when the second amendment was passed by Congress, the average number of musket balls that could be fired by a member of the militia was about two per minute. The Sandy Hook elementary school shooter subjected those small children and teachers to 154 bullets in less than 4 minutes, or about 38 bullets per minute from a semiautomatic rifle.

These bills are not the only answer, however, they are a start. We need a multifaceted approach, one that includes stricter gun control laws. We are not advocating for the elimination of personal gun ownership and use. We cannot save everyone, but when you look in the eyes of your son or daughter, brother or sister, friend or colleague, you can know that by supporting this type of legislation, you may have saved their life, or possibly your own.



Thank you for your consideration and your work on this important issue. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

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