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I am writing to support this bill because, like so many people, I am very afraid of being shot at some point during my daily life. I think about it when I'm on the street, in church, at the store, and driving. It's not just me. My son and his son and daughter came to visit me a couple of weeks ago. His daughter – 13—had experienced a school lockdown just that day, and was still, many hours later, so upset by it that she couldn't sleep. Fortunately, nothing bad happened. However, the day easily could have ended in tragedy, to the never-ending sadness and grief of so many. I don't want anyone else to experience what the families in Lewiston experienced last October, and what so many families in Maine have experienced due to murders, injuries, and self-harm from the reckless use of firearms.

I respect the fact that most gun owners in Maine are responsible and careful.

We need to take action to improve the safe ownership and use of guns. I strongly support the work of the many state officials and citizens and public servants working on these issues, and the thoughtful work of the legislature. I hope all that work will result in common-sense, practical, and effective laws to help make us all safer.

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