

Caroline Ahonen
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LD 2238

To the members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Caroline Ahonen and I live in Portland, Maine. I am a retired RN and the grandmother of a five year old who will begin school in the fall.

I fear for his safety as gun violence is now the number one killer of children in the United States.

I think we need a waiting period for ALL firearm purchases. I think we need to raise the age at which someone can purchase a firearm in Maine to 21, the same as for cigarettes or alcohol. An 18 year old can commit suicide more efficiently and effectively with a firearm than cigarettes or beer. I also think we need a ban on assault weapons, bump stocks, auto sears, and any other firearms which enable a single gunman to kill 17 people in a few minutes time.

I think LD 2238 ought to pass, and any other legislation to keep Mainers safe. It is time to prioritize the constitutional right to life over someone's erroneous interpretation of the Second Amendment and their perceived right to buy and own firearms without regulation. Innocent people are losing their lives due to the vice grip that the gun lobby has on legislative bodies in America.

Thank you for your service to the people of Maine.