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Windham  
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My name is Destiny Johnson. I was at Schemengee's Bar and Grille on October 25, 2023.

My 3 friends and I played a round of golf at Foxridge Golf Course in Auburn that night before we planned to go to Schemengee's.

We all agreed to go to Schemengee's as it was a close location for the girls and easy for me to get on the highway. The four of us left Foxridge Golf Club and met each other at Schemengee's.

As soon as I saw the building, I knew I wasn't going to fit my truck in their parking lot because the place was packed. Instead, I decided to pull up on the curb by the side door on to the left next to the entrance of the building.

Us four girls walked through the front door and sat down at the table against the wall across the front door where shooter walked in. I sat in the chair against the wall facing the door so I instantly saw Robert Card walk in.

We ordered a drink and 2 apps... the waitress came out with our drinks and shortly after with one of our apps. We all shared one app and as soon as we were done with one, the other app came out.

We started eating the second app and ordered pizza. Shortly after taking a couple bites of a stuffed potato puff, the shooter walked inside the bar directly in front of where we were sitting.

My friend Jennifer, was sitting directly in front of me. My other two friends were sitting to the right and left side of me.

With no expression on his face he looked up in the air, did something to the gun and fired up to the ceiling. He brought the gun back down did something to it and then proceeded to fire again in the air. He brought the gun back down proceeded to do the same thing to the gun and shot once more in the air.

He brought the gun back down did something to the gun again and that's when I heard someone say get down.

As soon as I was on the ground under my table I saw him point his gun towards us girls and then shot. I started crawling to my right under and through chairs. Every time he shot, I paused and stopped crawling.

I had at least a second or two to crawl while he messed with his gun in between each shot. After 3 shots, I was able to crawl into the back room which was dark that I knew I couldn't get out of... then I got up and ran into another dark room through the kitchen.

I saw my friend Jennifer standing there looking for a way to get out just like I was. At this point I couldn't hear anything... my ears were still ringing... I yelled to Jennifer and told her to follow me as I saw the door open through the kitchen. A guy was standing there holding the door for us. It looked like he worked in the kitchen with a black apron on.

I didn't look back.

I saw my truck as this guy opened the door, sitting there on the curb where I parked it on the side of the building. I booked it to my truck ... hit the button on the handle and the door opened.

Thankfully my key fob was still attached to my pants after crawling through each room... and I was able to start my truck and called 911. I called at 7:08. I was on the phone with 911 as I slammed my truck into gear and took off.

911 hung up on me after telling me they already knew what was going on. How comforting was that? I then called Jon and shortly after my son Jacob.

I was in a panic and drove straight until I saw the signs for the highway. I thought for sure the shooter was following me and he was until I veered left towards the highway.

I never let go of my napkins that I was holding in my left hand, until I was parked in my driveway located in Windham.

Unfortunately, the system and policy's here in Maine failed all of us. The policy's put in place now, are not allowing us Mainers to be able to defend ourselves by stepping into a gun free zone like Schemengee's.

94% of mass public shootings are in gun free zones.

Asking us to be defenseless for your perceived safety clearly leaves all of us in danger. What happened to us in Lewiston will happen again here in Maine.

We already had a system in place to arrest Robert Card before the shooting in Lewiston. The system was not used. The yellow flag law (that they promised would save lives) was also not used. What's the sense of the State of Maine having the yellow flag law, when they never enforced to begin with?

We need to realize Robert Card already had these weapons. The U.S. Army deemed him to be such a risk that it forbade him from having weapons, handling ammunition, or participating in shooting drills while on military duty.

But the Army's safeguards did not carry over to the civilian world as the military was not required to invoke state laws that exist to protect the public.

What's more, people knew about Card's erratic behavior and Card continued to own guns — despite his delusions, paranoia and threats against other people and an Army Reserve facility in Saco — in the months before the mass shooting.

On May 3, 2023, a Citizen Assist complaint originating from a local public school address was logged with the Sagadahoc County Sheriff's Office.

In July 2023, Card was admitted to a mental health facility in New York and spent 14 days in that hospital. It is well-documented that Card acted violently and even assaulted a fellow soldier.

In September 2023, weeks before the shooting, police received a request from the Maine National Guard to do a welfare check on Robert Card.

The reality of this tragedy is that there were signs for a year leading up to the shooting that Card was violent. He made threats and acted violently. Prior to the shooting, Card allegedly committed several serious crimes but he was not charged. Why not? Repeatedly, Card showed serious signs of danger, and his behavior was largely ignored.

We need to ask why the Army didn't ask police or a district attorney in New York to start the court process to potentially take Card's personal weapons that they gave him. But it appears they did not.

We need to address the mental health issue here in Maine.

We need to ask the Department of Defense, Veterans Affairs Administration and all of the police in Maine —

Why didn't you do your job to protect us?