

Testimony In Opposition to LD 2224

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and members of the committee. My name is Olivia Ground and I live in Auburn. I am writing additional testimony in opposition to LD 2224. As a teenager, I began to learn about our Constitution and the Bill of Rights, rights which shall not be infringed. I was at my house during the shelter in place throughout the Lewiston Shooting. I was in elementary school when Sandy Hook happened. I remember my school putting more lockdown drills in place and constructing more locked doors making it harder to get in the school in the aftermath of Sandy Hook. I was in high school when Parkland happened. I remember the terror in finally fully understanding what happened at Sandy Hook after hearing about Parkland. I remember being terrified while attending Windham Middle School here in Maine when we were evacuated due to a bomb and school shooting threat. I remember that week of terror. However, the Constitution and the Bill of Right are here for a reason. As a now twenty-two-year-old, Criminal Justice major at Central Maine Community College, I understand that trampling on the rights of law-abiding citizens will not stop those who wish to do harm to themselves and others. I am currently taking a Civil Liberties course which I am learning about how the government does not have the right to infringe on people's constitutional rights. Furthermore, not everyone who has mental health problems will commit gun violence. Also, this bill is discriminatory against those with mental health problems. I believe that there are better solutions. I believe that we need to get more mental health professionals in this state. Let's be proactive with children and teach them self-defense during gym class rather than just running which they will be able to use all throughout their life because let's face it gun violence is not the only type of violence out there. Let us teach children self-defense to empower them to be able to defend against any type of violence and empower them to know that they are not defenseless. Let us teach about gun safety. Let us try these things instead of infringing on our God given rights as stated in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Therefore, I urge you to vote ought not to pass.

Thank you,

Olivia Ground of Auburn, ME