

Jean Antonucci  
Jean AntonucciMD  
LD 2283

Jean Antonucci MD  
297 Chick Rd  
New Portland ME 04961  
jnantonucci@gmail.com

April 4, 2024

Thank you for allowing me to submit this I write in support of LD 2283 .I hoped to come in person, but had to work. Please vote in support of this act.

I am quite a rare bird. I am a primary care physician who has been working in Western Maine for 34 years. I paid \$93,000 to go to med school when interest was 18% through a program called HEAL in which the interest was lumped back on the capital every six months, and when there were rumors that program would go away, I wrote and begged Senator Orrin Hatch not to have it go away. Imagine begging for such a horrible program. He told me the government had no obligation to subsidize my education. This is how I see how legislators set priorities.

I've been told I shouldn't waste my brain on primary care .I've been paid at least a third less than other doctors for all these years --but I am still here .For 16 years I ran a practice where I saw everybody the day they called and on time, with low overhead and fabulous quality. The hospitals put me out of business, specifically Maine Health .Now I do Medication Assisted Treatment for recovering addicts and chronic pain care- two things we desperately need more of out here.

The point is that I know what I'm doing, and those of us out here in the trenches are rarely heard from.

How we look at these issues is complex. Please be aware of the fact that Americans do not think well,we tend to feel- listen to TV "I feel like ""I got emotional". Doctors think because we solve problems. Politicians see the world differently than I do. I am not sure that I can understand politicians currently- politicians seem unable to speak without naming the other party as an enemy, it's not a disagreement based on thoughtfulness. It's a disagreement based on that damned other party

We wish you would cut that out.

You have nothing to lose in supporting this bill. You have much to gain. Concerns about infringing on rights are unfounded and even so, even if rights were really truly being infringed on ,that would be for the public good. You do not have the right to drive 85 in a 35 mph zone. Is that taking away my right to drive as I please?

No one has the right to own a weapon of war .These are the ways we continue a civilized society The old "your right to punch your fist ends at my nose" statement should be remembered.

The definition of insanity is repetition of the same thing expecting a different result- this is how we see legislators regarding guns. Please we are begging. Did you SEE all those people in January at the State house?? I don't know why you feel so threatened - no one is infringing on rights -we're trying to make the world safer, if it was your child, you might feel differently. People always say they would do anything for their grandkids but in fact, they won't.

If you're so afraid you will be voted out then I fail to see that that's a lot to lose to do the right thing .You have to live with yourself .You cannot pass blame on to police or family or the current fall guy being mental illness (it is quite rare for a mentally ill person to commit mass murder although it is also true we have so much child abuse and neglect in this state that that issue also needs attention.) I see that legislators simply will not vote for bills like this because they don't think the public wants it, because you're so afraid of the vocal few who have guns. They can keep their handgun for safety (which has little basis in truth .Just how many muggings and home invasions do we really have here?) And hunting rifle...So keep it. But let us set limits

and let's pass a bill that protects people.

Blame things on the proliferation of guns in this country and inability to get basic needs met, not mental illness or the other party. Other countries are safer- duh – and think we're nuts. We are an outlier, we have plenty of rights, no one taking away your rights.

I have the right to be safe.

The violence we see in this country is not perpetrated by people who want a handgun for safety or a hunting rifle. Have you noticed that, have you noticed that you can keep your precious right to our arms, but I am begging you to save lives? Of course we need to do something about mental health. The healthcare system is a disaster. But access to guns, without taking them away from sensible people could do some good in the world- please do some good in the world. Call me if I can help you further.