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LD 2283

Dear Committee Members,

I live in Portland, ME and am mom of two boys ages 10 and 12. I have lived in Maine since 2008, but grew up in Highland Park, IL.

On July 4, 2022 a gunman stood on top of a building in Highland Park and murdered 5 people sitting in lawn chairs at a 4th of July parade, and gravely injured 40 other people. My sister was sitting on the street corner, my niece and brother in law were marching in the parade. I am grateful for their survival. I wrote to our senators in Maine multiple times after this incident, warning that it could and would happen in Maine, but my words fell on unlistening ears.

I understand that collective concious of grief that was exacerbated by the Lewiston shootings in October. Is this the world we want?

In both cases, a red flag law would have removed the murder weapons from the assailants possession. **THEY COULD HAVE BEEN PREVENTED. WE CANNOT THROW UP OUR HANDS.**

I know and have worked with the Sportsman's Alliance of Maine. I have taken kids to shoot archery on their range and I support people's right to hunt and food sustainability. It confounds me why they see this legislation as threatening that way of life. Take dangerous weapons out of dangerous hands - our lives literally depend on it!!!!