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I could not attend today's hearing because of the storm but wanted to urge the committee to support LD 2024 to add an important layer of protection to the tools available in Maine to reduce gun violence and increase public health and safety.

These efforts are long overdue. The mass shooting in Lewiston was just another wake up call. Death by firearms in domestic violence situations and suicide have continued to rise in Maine...another wake up call.

Maine has been my family's home for almost fifty years. I am saddened and alarmed by this increase in violence.

Fear of mass shooting in schools, workplace, theaters, community events and all public places is on the rise. Family members and friends have cut back on activities because of this fear. This is not good for us as individuals and as communities.

Access to firearms elevates the likelihood of a successful suicide and killing in DV situations...one of the most scary calls for our law enforcement officers.

In order to enter my granddaughter's daycare, I must pass through three security levels. Not all little ones are so lucky, so privileged. But once she starts public school though, I am very concerned for her safety. I am concerned that our children carry this fear and are reminded of it during active shooter drills. This is not good for their physical or mental well-being.

My husband and I have left outdoor community events when we observed someone entering with a gun strapped to their waist. How can we possibly know this person's intentions.

There are so many tools that Maine can add to address gun violence. Today's legislation is an extremely important one. Please do not fail us.