

Finding Our Voices

Survivors Breaking the Silence
of Domestic Abuse

FindingOurVoices.net

PO Box 943
Camden, Maine 04843

April 9, 2024

To the Judiciary Committee

Hello. I am a survivor of 29 years of domestic abuse and the founder and CEO of the grassroots movement and nonprofit breaking the silence of domestic abuse across Maine, Finding Our Voices.

I am writing in support of LD 2283, strongly urging you to vote "Ought to Pass".

The crisis of COVID might be over. But in Maine the crisis of domestic violence made more dangerous with the presence of guns remains with countless women continuing to shelter in place with no end in sight, unable or terrified to leave their home because of a lover turned abuser who is a lot more dangerous because he has guns.

Year after year in Maine for decades half of all women killed in the U.S. are murdered by a current or former intimate partner and according to the John Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions, a woman is five times more likely to be murdered when her abuser has access to a gun.

Finding Our Voices daily gets panic calls from women about the gun-toting men plaguing them and their children. The danger extends to the general public as anyone with half an ear to the news knows with continual reports of police standoffs by angry men with guns. Police are also at risk with the easy availability of guns, because "domestics" are the most dangerous 911 calls police respond to, and if the perpetrator has a gun the danger to their personal safety is exponentially higher.

Thank you for giving more consideration to the women and children as well as general public whose lives are in danger due to the easy availability of guns, than to gun owners, with your vote today in favor of LD 2283.

Sincerely,

Patrisha McLean, CEO and founder of Finding Our Voices.

CEO & Founder Patrisha McLean

Board of Directors: **President** Cathy Stivers **Treasurer** Nicole Larrabee **Secretary** Pamela Gagnon da Silva

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Patrisha McLean
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