



**Maine Medical
Association**



**TESTIMONY OF THE MAINE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
AND
THE MAINE OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION**

In Opposition to

**LD 486 An Act to Remove the Duty of an Individual Exercising Self-defense to Safely Retreat
or Abstain from Performing Certain Acts upon Demand**

Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety
Room 436, State House, Augusta, Maine
Tuesday, March 4, 2025

Good Afternoon, Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary. My name is Anne Sedlack, and I am the Director of Advocacy at the Maine Medical Association. I am submitting this testimony opposing LD 486, An Act to Remove the Duty of an Individual Exercising Self-defense to Safely Retreat or Abstain from Performing Certain Acts upon Demand.

The Maine Medical Association (MMA) is a professional organization representing over 4,000 physicians, residents, and medical students in Maine. MMA's mission is to support Maine physicians, advance the quality of medicine in Maine, and promote the health of all Maine people. The Maine Osteopathic Association (MOA) is a professional organization representing more than 1,200 osteopathic physicians, residents, and medical students in Maine whose mission is to serve the Osteopathic profession of the State of Maine through a coordinated effort of professional education, advocacy, and member services to ensure the availability of quality osteopathic health care to the people of this State.

The MMA and MOA's legislative committees have joined to advocate with one voice. We have all determined we should testify in opposition to LD 486.

MMA and MOA have chosen gun safety reform as a priority issue for our Associations because we cannot continue to ignore one of America's most serious public health crises. Deaths by firearms have increased significantly in the last few years, including homicide, suicide, and accidents. We, the physician caregivers for more than a million Mainers, stand up to end this through the passage of sensible firearm safety laws in Maine. Maine's physicians are dedicated to our communities' health and well-being. We take our role in advancing public health measures seriously. We have no choice because we are on the front lines of caring for patients affected by gun-related injuries every day.

The implementation of Florida's stand-your-ground law was associated with a 32% increase in firearm homicide rates and a 24% increase in overall homicide rates.¹ Stand your ground laws are also associated with significant increases in firearm injuries resulting in emergency room visits and inpatient hospitalizations.²

It is clear that if this bill were to become law, Mainers would be less safe. Thank you for considering the thoughts of Maine's physicians, and we hope you oppose LD 486.

Thank you,

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¹ <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamainternalmedicine/fullarticle/2582988> .

² <https://www.nber.org/papers/w18187>.