

March 17, 2025

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus, and members of the committee.
My name is Michelle Fortier-Oosterman and I live in Lyman, Maine. I am a recently retired school social worker and LCSW in the State of Maine.

In the matter of LD 486, a bill to facilitate “stand your ground” action for gun owners, I stand opposed. It is the duty of law to keep citizens safe. This bill increases danger and decreases safety.

Everyday we hear about Artificial Intelligence, or AI. We have smartphones, smart tvs, smart cars and smart homes. We do not have smart guns. Guns require a human brain in order to be used safely.

In our elementary schools all staff work to teach our children solid decision-making skills. We teach them that the steps are: “Stop. Think. Choose. Act.” LD 486 reduces these steps to one step: “Act”.

The right to own guns is constitutionally protected. LD 486 removes responsibility from gun ownership. LD 486 makes citizens less safe. LD 486 ought not to pass.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Michelle Fortier-Oosterman, LCSW

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Lyman
LD 486

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