

In Regards 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.

Honorable members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee:

My name is Anne Amadon, I am a resident of Skowhegan and a Board Member of Gun Owners of Maine. I appreciate the opportunity to present my testimony in support of this proposed legislation.

The right to defend oneself is natural law whether you are in your own home or elsewhere.

I urge you all to consider that the current law requiring someone to tell an attacker that you perceive is threatening your life to stop what they are doing and leave, is at the very least, ineffective, and at most deadly. (Like posting a sign in your building stating it is a “Gun Free Zone” and expecting that sign to stop a crazed person from entering and shooting people anyway)

Asking an attacker to stop before taking action costs valuable seconds when you have only a moment to respond. I feel certain that there isn’t anyone on this committee who would honestly think to tell someone to “stop and go away” in the middle of a physical altercation while fearing for your life -you would want to do anything you could to stop it IMMEDIATELY. Rarely in Maine would a person be in a situation of being attacked happen to have a law enforcement officer available at that very moment to stop potential harm.

We have to be able to defend ourselves, our families, and those around us in times where our lives may be in jeopardy.

The current requirement to retreat or tell the attacker to stop grossly infringes on our rights both from the perspective of the law as well as our inherent right to self preservation.

I urge you to vote in favor of LD 486 and allow the citizens of Maine the right to defend themselves without undue hindrance.

Anne Amadon
Board Member of Gun Owners of Maine
Skowhegan