

Heidi Nydam
Lewiston, Bates College
LD 677

Hello Sen. Carney, Rep. Kuhn, and Members of the Judiciary Committee, I am Heidi Nydam, a current student at Bates College and a huge appreciator of this great state of Maine where I have come to feel at home. I was also on campus when the Lewiston shooting occurred and have become very passionate about ensuring that everyone in Maine can feel safe and at home, which is the antithesis of the anxiety and fear we all felt during that time.

I am writing in support of LD: 677 to pass a restriction on the rapid fire devices and machine gun conversion devices which are commonly used in high profile and mass shootings. There is no reason that these devices should exist and they only enable horrific events like the Lewiston shooting to be more devastating, rapid, and wide spread. I can only imagine how it must feel to be one of the families affected by the Lewiston tragedy, or so many of the other mass shooting across America, and allowing rapid fire or machine gun devices to persist only increases the likelihood that someone may be a victim or one of the family, or community members left behind. It was truly terrifying to be locked in the library and then our dorm rooms for days on end, and I hope you consider how, even as a fortunate, and relatively removed from the event, student I had extreme moments of self reflection during this time and decided I would forevermore be committed to ending gun violence. I hope my considerations inspire you to do some of your own self reflection and work to pass LD 677. Thank you for listening.