

Mary Ellen Quinn
Pax Christi Maine
LD 677

Senator Anne Carney, Rep. Amy Kuhn and honorable members of the Judiciary Committee:

My Name is Mary Ellen Quinn. I live in Winterport. I serve as Co-Coordinator of the Catholic Peace and Justice movement, Pax Christi Maine. I am testifying today in strong support of LD 677, An Act to Update the Statutory Definition of "Machine Gun" and Prohibit Possession of a Rapid Fire Device.

Speaking as a person of faith and conscience, representing members of Pax Christi statewide who are committed to the practice of Christian Nonviolence, we stand opposed to weapons of mass destruction. Rapid fire devices and machine gun conversions sole purpose is to kill large numbers of people in a very brief amount of time. Civilians have no reason to own these weapons in our society.

We value the sacredness of human life and know too well that the violence perpetrated by these weapons brings only death and long lasting trauma to adults, children and families. These deaths and injuries are preventable. Your vote can make a difference in Maine.

We urge you to vote "ought to pass" on LD 677. Thank you for your time and consideration.