

maryann larson  
Bangor  
LD 1743

Good morning Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and members of the Judiciary Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to share testimony. My name is Mary Ann Larson and I live in Bangor.

Local leaders are best positioned to understand the safety needs of their particular communities. They should have the option to limit firearms in certain spaces if that's necessary to keep citizens safe. To make sure we're safe is the first obligation of government. Taking steps to ensure that is not an infringement on gun rights.

All of our rights have limits in a civilized society. Even the 2nd amendment is not absolute. While we have broad rights to freedom of speech, we can't yell "fire" in a crowded theater. Sensible limits to protect safety in a public space are well within the 2008 "Heller" decision, with Justice Scalia stating that the decision didn't mean any gun could be carried anywhere.

Gun rights end where my right to safety and life begin.