

Cathy Daphna Harris
Mechanic Falls
LD 525

Dear Members of the Education Committee,

I am a retired teacher and a grandmother. I am unable to testify in person as I am committed to babysitting my grandson on Wednesdays. Day care costs being what they are I help when I can but that is a whole other issue.

I taught in Maine schools for 28 years. There is a reason why we prohibit gunfire near schools and that reason is for the safety of our children. Children walk to and from schools. Children are dropped off and picked up in school parking lots. Children are outside playing in the school playground at recess. Many families bring their children to school playgrounds on the weekends and after school. On the weekends my son frequently brings my three year old granddaughter to play on the playground equipment at the elementary school in his town. Schools hold sporting events such as football and soccer games, etc. At any time of the day and even on the weekends there is a chance there will be children around or near schools.

The risk that a child may accidentally be shot and killed is simply too great to allow the discharge of firearms within 500 feet of a school. That is a tragedy that we must do all we can to prevent.

Please vote against this bill which puts our children in danger.

Thank you,
Cathy Harris