

Richard Shapiro  
Brunswick  
LD 885

My name is Richard Shapiro. I am from Brunswick, and I am voting in favor of LD 885.

Please vote in favor of this proposal.

I would like to remind this committee that the presence of law abiding people with guns cuts the numbers of casualties in school shooting incidents dramatically. Statistics show that, if there is an armed resource officer, or even an armed civilian present, far fewer people die when a school shooting occurs.

I would also like to remind this committee that, egregiously, students and staff at Charter, Private, and Parochial schools in Maine have been COMPLETELY stripped of their right of self-defense, as they are forbidden to even hire off-duty police officers as armed resource officers.

Maine NEEDS to join the majority of states that do not strip their citizens of the right for their children to be protected on school property.

Maine has a long history of a proud, safe, and law abiding gun culture. The provision that this proposal would eliminate is nonsensical, as it only serves to find a way to strip the gun rights from the law abiding, based on an illusion that guns per se, and not criminals, are somehow responsible for school shootings.

After all, it's not as if these laws have ever prevented a criminal from bringing a gun into a school – they only keep guns out of the hands out of those who would save our children's lives.

Let's undo that wrong now – and allow reasonable protection of our children on school property. Currently, they are simply targets.

Thank you.