

4/3/23 TESTIMONY FOR LD 22 –
TRANSFER OF FIREARMS TO PROHIBITED PEOPLE

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Salisbury and distinguished members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee, I am Carol Selsberg, an 85-year-old grandmother from Eliot, Maine urging you to pass LD22.

I don't want to come back a 4th time to testify on firearm problems so dire they are now the number one cause of death for children and teenagers. I am with the majority of Americans NOT against the 2d Amendment but the words "well-regulated" are not there for nothing.

Why would somebody want your gun rather than go through the usual dealers and legal steps? You wouldn't give your car to someone without driver training, a license, or with a negligent driving record. How do you know that person doesn't have a criminal background, suicidal tendencies, domestic violence history? A 2016 Colorado Public Radio survey of prison inmates found that most got guns used in their crimes illegally or as gifts from friends and family.

On average, Maine suffers 146 gun deaths a year. (Everytown Research.org). Last year, we got an F from Giffords Law Center because we lack reasonable regulations (WABI Ch. 5). America lost 10,566 to violent gun deaths... **IN THE FIRST 3 MONTHS OF 2023!** (Gun Violence Archives). Giffords Law also reminds us that at least 43,000 Americans die from gun violence every year. **Imagine that number in terms of the town populations you represent here.**

So my final question to this committee on LD 22 and all the other LD's I'll be testifying on today is: What's the downside of voting Ought to Pass? Who loses when you make deadly weapons safer? How many more years and lives must pass before those in charge pass protective laws for deadly weapons?

Thank you for your commitment to the people of Maine, and for using your office to save lives with a lot more than thoughts and prayers, by voting LD 22 Ought to Pass.