

**Peggy McGehee  
Falmouth, Maine**

Good afternoon, Chairs Beebe-Center and Salisbury and Members of the Committee:

I am Peggy McGehee, a resident of the Town of Falmouth. I speak in support of L.D. 22, as a mother and grandmother in a gun-owning, military family. Our son is a U.S. Marine captain who has served active duty in Iraq. My daughter's son, my grandson, lives in rural Maine and is learning to shoot and hunt. We, and all the law-abiding and responsible gun owners here today, lose nothing if this bill, and all of today's gun safety bills, pass. Our gun ownership will not be curtailed in any way. The bills do not violate our Second Amendment rights. As Justice Clarence Thomas himself said in last year's U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Bruen*, the Second Amendment protects only "law-abiding and responsible" persons. Non-law abiding and irresponsible persons have no Second Amendment right to bear arms. These bills only help *prevent guns from going to persons already barred by court order from owning a gun. That is all.*

None of us here today want our children or grandchildren to be at risk of injury or trauma because we made it so easy, here in Maine, for non-law abiding and irresponsible people to get guns—with no required permit, no private sale background check, no waiting period, no penalties for selling or giving guns to criminals. If the Legislature passes these bills this year, unlike its failure to pass the same or similar bills in prior years, then we Mainers will have -- law by law-- done what we can to stop the flow of crime guns—and made our loved ones safer.

This bill will help that in at least two ways. It will give friends and family a good reason to say "no" when a person, who by court order is prohibited from having a gun, asks the friend or relative to give him a gun any way. Instead of having to stand up to him and say "no I won't give you a gun" this bill will enable the friend or relative to say, "Sorry, I can't give you a gun, because it is now a crime for me to do that."

The bill will also give pause to the corrupt seller of guns, who, knowing the buyer is a felon, still sells him a gun for the profit. With this bill the seller will have to consider that she will be charged with a crime for knowingly selling the gun to the felon. That will slow down illegal gun trafficking. Corrupt retail dealers account for a higher volume of guns getting into the illegal market than any other trafficking channel.

If you pair this bill with the private sale background check bill, L.D. 168, then the private dealer will have to do a background check, and when he learns that the buyer is prohibited by court order from having a gun, he will be deterred from selling it, to avoid his own criminal penalties. So this bill could help stop the flow of crime guns both within Maine and out to other states when felons come here to get guns that the laws in their own states prevent them from getting.

I ask the Committee to vote unanimously that L.D. 22 ought to pass. Thank you for your consideration.

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