



April 3, 2023

Dear Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Salisbury and members of the Criminal Justice & Public Safety Committee

My name is Lynn Ellis. I live in Brunswick and I am the Legislative Director for the Maine Gun Safety Coalition. **Maine Gun Safety Coalition. We are an advocacy-based organization** focused on protecting Mainers from gun-related tragedies. Our goal is to raise awareness of the ongoing public health crisis of gun violence and provide solutions that would help prevent these tragedies. These solutions include working with the Gun Safety Caucus to pass common sense state legislation. We work with other gun violence prevention groups dedicated to a common goal of saving lives lost to firearm fatalities.

Along with this testimony I have given you the latest Firearm Fatalities report that shows the data for 2020 and 2021. Suicides increased by 26. Homicides decreased by 2 in 2021 but we expect both numbers to be significantly higher in the 2022 report.

A common myth about GVP groups is that we look to restrict the purchase and use of firearms for everyone. We support responsible gun ownership and many among us are gun owners ourselves. Our focus is on preventing injury and death; especially for our children. Our current laws allow domestic abusers to purchase guns without a background check. Unrestricted gun sales increase domestic violence deaths, homicides, and suicides. These lax gun laws make it easier for offenders to purchase firearms and commit crimes in other areas.

I urge you to pass LD 60 and LD 168 and all other common-sense legislation that will prevent and substantially reduce gun deaths in our state.

Lynn Ellis. Legislative Director

Maine Gun Safety Coalition

PO Box 92, Portland, ME 04112

www.mainegunsafetycoalition.org