

4/3/23 TESTIMONY FOR LD 168 – CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Salisbury and distinguished members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee. I am still Carol Selsberg, an 85-year-old grandmother from Eliot, Maine, hoping you will vote LD 168 Ought to Pass. Who's afraid of a background check to buy a dangerous weapon? You were OK with it when you got your driver's license, hunting license, applied for a job, got a passport, rented a place to live.

Last year, 90% of Americans favored background checks (Snopes) with FBI's checks accurate **99.3 to 99.8%** of the time (Sandy Hook Promise Research). In the 100 years of background checks, it's always been deemed constitutional (Everytown Law)

Maine has become a gun source state with gun trafficking closely tied to drugs. From 2017 to 2022, 4500 crime guns came from Maine, including the Boston Marathon Bombers' (Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms).

Here's my-pardon the expression-bullet list of immediate reasons to regulate weapons with Notes to Self when considering **ANY AND ALL** safer gun laws:

- 4,339 deaths, 7,725 injuries, 130 mass shootings, 61 children killed, 131 children injured, 355 teenagers killed, 846 teens injured. **IN THE FIRST 3 MONTHS OF 2023!** (Gun Violence Archive)
- 15,371 currently own guns In Maine (World Population Review). **336 mill.** own **393 mill. guns** (5/22 Business Insider and the Nat'l Shooting Sports Foundation).
- **20 million military weapons.** For what? For who? Hunting? Kinda takes the "sport" out of it. National Crime Victimization Survey polls crime victims twice a year: **484,800 gun crimes vs. 70,040 defensive gun users** with **NO** evidence they are using their **20 million assault rifles** to defend themselves. Guns are used much more to intimidate others rather than in self-defense (The Harvard Injury Control Center).
- We all have children, grandkids, nieces, nephews. What drills did **WE** have in school? What were **OUR** daily fears as kids? Trouble with multiplying 9's? Not ready for the pop quiz? No Prom date? Or being shot into small pieces by a military weapon designed to tear as many people, or kids, apart in as short a time as possible?
- And I have to ask you to ask yourselves and colleagues if you are not appalled by ANY American leaders representing 331 mill. Americans while wearing AR-15 pins instead of American flags

Thank you for saving lives with positive action rather than thoughts and prayers, and sensibly voting that LD 168 Ought to Pass