

Sen. Carney and Rep. Moonen and members of the Judiciary Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to request that you support LD-2038. Amended 2086

I am a teacher. I am here today and my fellow teachers are here in spirit. They cannot be here because they are with their precious charges—your children and grandchildren. Teachers often enter school wondering, What would I do? Where would we hide if it happened today?

I will tell you that there is no place to hide in my classroom. We have very large windows that look out on the playground where anyone can see in—or shoot in. This is the case at many of our elementary classrooms throughout the state.

We all remember the horror of Sandy Hook. There is no way to protect teachers and children from these weapons of war—and let's not kid ourselves these are weapons of war. I recently heard an emergency room doctor say, When patients come in with gunshot wounds, they are rushed to the OR. When the wound is from an assault weapon, there is no rush because they are taken to the morgue.

As legislators I believe it is your responsibility to be sure that weapons in this country are "well-regulated" as is very clearly written in the bill of rights. I support the right of citizens to own weapons, but no one needs an assault weapon or large capacity magazine to hunt or protect their home.

We had a 10 year federal assault weapons ban before. We need to join with the states who have the vision to have the assault weapon ban again. Of course, we need a better yellow flag law and universal background checks and a 72-hour waiting period to prevent suicide. But, these laws are not complete without a ban on these weapons of war. You couldn't put a bump stock on a muzzle loader.

I'll be back on Thursday and will continue to organize my fellow teachers to keep our children—your children and grandchildren—uppermost in your minds.

Please vote Ought to Pass on this bill. I'm happy to answer any questions.

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