

Testimony regarding LD2086

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen and the members of the Judiciary Committee, I am here to provide testimony in favor of LD 2086..

I am a retired pediatric trauma surgeon, a veteran of 3 years in the U.S.Army, an occasional hunter, and past chairman of the Maine ACS Trauma Committee. I live in Falmouth.

I well remember the rapid fire of machine guns on the ranges at the 7th Army Training Center in Grafenwohr, West Germany, while I was caring for patients in the 547th General Dispensary. Thanks to Army Safety Rules, I never had to care for injuries from the machine guns. I do, however, have experience caring for the injuries from high velocity assault rifles. One young soldier held on for three shots, but he survived. When I saw him a year later, he thanked me for saving his life. He had recovered from his depression and suicide attempt and was a functional soldier.

A 30.06, a 30-30, a shot gun and pistols are great for civilian gun purposes - as long as access to them is carefully controlled. Rapid fire adaptations and high ammunition velocity mean you do not have to be a good shot and whatever you hit dies rapidly - bleeding to death from damage to blood vessels. Assault weapons are very effect for military purposes but they have no business in the civilian world. Travelling down I95 at 70 MPH can be done safely but we don't allow 200 MPH in a formula 1 race car off the race track for good reasons.

Senator Carney's bill is very good as far as it goes, but I ask you to consider closing the safety loop by including an assault weapons ban in this bill. High velocity is very lethal. It's a matter of physics - $E=1/2 MV^2$.

Thank you for this opportunity. I'll be happy to answer any questions.

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