

March 5, 2024

LD #2086

An Act to Amend the Law Governing the Disposition of Forfeited Firearms

Good afternoon Senator Carney, Representative Moonan and members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Mary Ann Larson and I'm a resident of Bangor. Thank you for the opportunity to speak.

I testify today as a representative of the Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Network and our 26 congregations throughout the state. As people of faith we believe in the inherent worth and dignity of every person.

Our hearts were broken last October by the tragic loss of 18 precious souls and the injuries incurred by 13 others in the Lewiston shootings, and for the countless families and friends of those who perished that night, who will live with that horror and pain from now on.

Weapons of war designed to kill many people as quickly as possible have no place in a civilized society.

There must be substantive change to make our communities safer in the wake of the deadliest mass shooting in the country last year and one of the worst in US history. We must act boldly and decisively in the face of this tragedy. T

The country, the people of Maine, and our children are watching how we respond to this public health crisis and moral reckoning. May we find the courage to meet this moment.

Mary Ann Larson
Bangor, Maine