

LDs 2086 and 2119

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and esteemed members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Hillary Shende from Brunswick, and I am here to testify in favor of LDs 2119 and 2086.

I am here today, and I will testify again on Thursday, because I am a parent, and there is literally nothing more important to me than keeping my children alive. My husband's coming home early from work to watch our kids after school today so I can be here, because the most likely cause of death for my children, and every other child in this country, is gun violence. And I intend to do everything in my power to stop this insanity.

First: LD 2119. This bill is a common sense measure. It will allow people who know they are temporarily a danger to themselves or others to have a chance to weather their emotional storms, and live to tell about it.

Second: LD 2086. This bill will limit the carnage of mass shootings. Bump stocks were the primary reason the death toll was so high in the Las Vegas shooting. I would like to see not only a prohibition on bump stocks, but also a small magazine limit and a complete prohibition of military style weapons designed to spray bullets as rapidly as possible. Those items are appropriate for war zones, not for the streets of Maine, not even for deer hunting in Maine. Let's keep our strong hunting tradition and put venison on the table for dinner with a hunting rifle, not an AR-15.

How do we know these measures will reduce gun violence? Because states and countries who have passed similar laws have seen significant reductions in gun deaths. We can do the same and save the lives of our fellow Mainers, too. Or we can choose to let them die. We have that power.

Please vote in favor of LDs 2119 and 2086. Thank you.