

My name is Reverend Jeanette A. Good. I am resident of Falmouth and an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ.

Gun violence is personal. My own Norwegian grandfather died of gun violence in the early 1900s depriving my then three-year-old mother a life with her father.

I come to you today as a proud Mainer raised in a Republican family who hunted as a child in the mystical Maine woods and became a Junior member of the NRA. I also know this capitol well because as a child I used to play here when my father was Speaker of the House. I have admiration for those of you on both sides of the aisle who serve our great state especially at this historic moment when we as a nation are dealing with one mass shooting after another.

I want to thank Senator Anne Carney for her amendment to LD 2086, critical legislation. However, I am disappointed that there is no assault weapons ban. An assault weapons ban is what Maine really needs.

In the United States guns are now the leading cause of death of our children. Day after day, we witness the murder of our children mowed down by assault weapons, most notably AR-15s, notorious for destroying the human body beyond recognition. When the Uvalde school shooting happened in Texas, one 10 -year girl could only be identified by her shoes, her green sneakers.

“Researchers estimate that if we still had a federal Assault Weapons Ban, we’d see 70 percent fewer mass shootings deaths.”<sup>1</sup> Assault weapons and large-capacity magazines do not belong on our streets or in our sacred woods. They do not make us safer. They do not protect our children. They do not help us love one another. They do not unite our country.

The shootings in Lewiston still weigh heavy on our hearts. It was a beyond shattering experience, but you here in this capitol can ensure that 18 beloved Mainers did not die in vain. Thank you.

---

<sup>1</sup> Everytown for Gun Safety