

Testimony in support of LD 2224 and LD 2238 ---- March 7, 2024

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen and members of the Judiciary Committee

My name is Lynn Ellis and I live in Brunswick. I am a member of MUUSAN and the Maine Gun Safety Coalition. I continue into my 11th year as a gun safety advocate. As a person who believes that every life is precious, please do all you can to interrupt the crisis of gun violence in our state and in our country.

I am about to read the words of my friend Carol who is not able to be here today but wanted her voice heard in today's hearings. Her life and that of her family was irrevocably changed last October.

My name is Carol and I'm a resident of Brunswick and a retired librarian from the Curtis Memorial Library. I am a parent, a grandparent, a great grandparent and a great, great grandparent of residents of Lewiston and Auburn.

We moved to Lisbon, Maine 1974 when my late husband, a Navy Mainer, who was stationed at the Brunswick Naval Air Station retired from the Navy and we settled in Lisbon.

The night of the Lewiston shooting I received emails from my nieces who live out of state. Turning on the television I saw the news concerning the mass shooting in Lewiston. One of the places, Schemengees Bar and Grille is located just around the corner from where my granddaughter and her mother live. I've passed it many times when I'm going to Auburn and my great grandson was able to watch one of the shootings from his apartment window. Please, it's time for Maine to put stronger gun safety bills in place. We saw with the Lewiston shooting that the laws we have now are not strong enough. We need to do more if we want to keep Maine people safe. LD2224 would address the loophole in background checks and further enhance the process of removing firearms from people who should not have them. LD 2238 is an important measure in preventing someone in crisis from accessing a firearm in a moment of crisis and possibly save their life.

I've been involved with gun safety since Sandy Hook and now that my family has been threatened, you'll continue to hear from me. Thank you for any help you can give us now and for any help you've given in the past.