

April 9, 2024

Thank you to the all the Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee for today's hearing and allowing me the opportunity to speak.

My name is Margaret Libby, I am a resident of Cumberland County, a mother of two young adults, a proponent for people being able to protect themselves and their families, a strong believer in our constitution, and I stand before you today not just as a survivor of domestic violence but as a voice for the countless individuals who have faced and are currently facing similar horrors. I am here to express my unwavering support for Maine Bill LD 2238, a bill that seeks to safeguard our communities, our families, and most importantly, our lives.

In my own experience, I lived in perpetual fear due to the firearms my ex-fiancé, a disbarred attorney diagnosed as a sociopath, kept hidden throughout our home. He used these guns as tools of intimidation, constantly reminding me of his ability to inflict harm. This is a reality for too many victims, trapped in environments where the threat of gun violence is a daily terror.

Furthermore, my work in assisting women to escape violent situations has shown me the devastating role firearms often play in domestic violence. The presence of a gun in a domestic violence situation increases the risk of homicide by 500%. It is a grim statistic that underscores the urgent need for legislative action.

The recent tragedy in Lewiston, Maine, where lives were senselessly lost, serves as a heart-wrenching reminder of the consequences of inaction. Many of these tragedies are rooted in mental health crises, emphasizing the need for a comprehensive approach to gun control that includes stringent checks on the mental health of individuals seeking to acquire firearms.

Maine Bill LD 2238 represents a critical step toward preventing future tragedies. By establishing more rigorous safeguards around gun ownership, we can protect those at risk and ensure that only those who pose no threat to themselves or others have access to firearms.

I urge you to consider the lives that can be saved, the families that can be spared from grief, and the communities that can be shielded from the scourge of gun violence. I implore you to support Maine Bill LD 2238. Let us stand together for the safety and well-being of all Mainers.

Thank you for your attention and for the opportunity to share my testimony.