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Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus and members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety committee

My name is Roy Hitchings and I live in Camden, Maine. I am testifying against LD 486 the so called "Stand Your Ground" bill and urge you to not pass it. I am a Vietnam veteran, served in the U.S. Army and have fired many different kinds of guns and weapons. I spent most all of my career working in not-for-profit hospitals here in Maine and New England. I strongly believe that Gun Safety is a major public health issue.

While attending the huge gun safety rally at the statehouse in January 3, 2024, I saw something that shocked me and had a profound impact on me. There was a young man, about 16 or 18 years old, who held a large sign that said "My Glock is faster than your 911 call". I realized that he believed that he alone should replace law enforcement, judge and a jury, and that he could decide who should live or die. This is not Maine nor our country. We have trained police, laws and juries to protect us and to decide who is guilty or not.

Please do not pass LD 486 which could empower anyone to use deadly force when they wanted to. Thank you.

Roy Hitchings

270 Molyneaux Road

Camden, Maine 04843