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To the Joint Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety:

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus, Members of the Joint Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee -

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to LD 486. My name is Mark Segar, resident of Freeport. My wife and I have lived in Maine for more than thirty years.

I have devoted my professional life to the well-being of children and families. As a parent, teacher, school administrator, earlier in my career as Executive Director of New Hampshire's Commission on Children & Youth, and now in retirement as a citizen advocate.

I oppose this bill because it would make our state less safe.

It would increase the risk of gun violence in Maine communities, as similar legislation has in some other states.

It could escalate conflicts unnecessarily, endangering gun owners, family members and bystanders alike.

It would create particular dangers for young people, who lack the self-restraint and capacity to manage impulse of fully developed adults.

As I understand it, current Maine law provides protections for self-defense. It also provides expectations for individuals to step away from confrontation when they can safely do so, to defuse tension when possible. LD 486 would erase those expectations unnecessarily.

I urge you to not to endorse this dangerous and un-needed legislation. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark W. Segar, Ed.D.
March 17, 2025