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Testimony in OPPOSITION to L.D. 486 – An Act to Remove the Duty of an Individual Exercising Self-Defense to Safely Retreat or Abstain from Performing Certain Actus upon Demand

Dear Senate Chair Beebe-Center, House Chair Hasenfus, and Members of the Joint Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee:

I am Peggy McGehee, from Falmouth. My husband and I have lived in Maine for the past 45 years, and together we have raised 4 children. I come here today to ask you not to endorse L.D. 486.

For those in law enforcement, and for those of us who, like me, have close relatives who are in law enforcement, there is concern that this law will make their already dangerous work even more dangerous. When our Maine police officers and under-cover agents, conduct a no-knock warrant, they will be put at an even higher risk if this law is enacted. If this law is enacted, they will be put at higher risk even if they are just doing security and safety checks on homes and vehicles.

This weekend I read on-line this question: "How do 'stand-your-ground' laws apply when police officers are involved?" The first answer was "Here in Texas you can definitely kill them, but not if you know they are police." And in stand-your-ground Texas, apparently this answer is right. A few years ago, a man was acquitted by a Texas jury, because he asserted a stand-your-ground defense for shooting and killing a police officer who was checking on the man's malfunctioning home alarm system. West Texas man acquitted in fatal shooting of police officer. Same thing in stand-your-ground Florida, where a judge dismissed a murder charge against a man, who, when in a crime house, shot and killed one of the deputy sheriffs who were exercising a no-knock warrant. The judge acquitted the murderer because the judge found that he was just exercising his right to stand his ground, shooting first before realizing that his victim was a police officer who had legally entered the house.¹

RAND Corporation, a non-partisan research institution, has concluded that evidence from 15 studies it evaluated supports the conclusion that stand-your-ground laws cause an increase in violent crime, and particularly in homicide, including the homicide of police officers. [https://www.rand.org/research/gun-](https://www.rand.org/research/gun-policy/docs/stand-your-ground.pdf)

[policy/docs/stand-your-ground.pdf](https://www.rand.org/research/gun-policy/docs/stand-your-ground.pdf):

So for the sake of our Maine protectors in blue, and in under-cover brown, please don't make their work any more dangerous, and vote that this bill ought not to pass.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

¹ *Derossett v. State of Florida*, (FL. Dist. Ct of Appeal) cv #5019-0802 (2020).