

Sen Carney, Rep Kuhn, Members of the committee, I am Abigail Iverson and I live in Jefferson. I am a long-time educator, the former after school program coordinator for the Central Lincoln County YMCA, the current Development Director for Coastal Kids Preschool in Damariscotta, and most importantly the mother of three young boys.

I stand before you today in support of LD 677^{LD 1109} and LD 1126^{guel}

I graduated high school in June of 1999, just two months after the devastating day in Littleton, CO. My entire career in education has been in the wake of Columbine, and unfortunately what was an event that shocked the nation and ultimately the globe, has now become common place enough that active shooter preparedness has become a staple in our educators' and caregivers' professional development.

I will keep my comments brief today because I feel they speak for themselves, and I don't want them to get lost in statistics that you can access from the links I am providing with my testimony.

Are you aware that early childhood caregivers and teachers are being advised to carry lollypops in their "go bags" to help pacify young children during an active shooter event. Could you imagine having to make the decision to leave an infant or five-year-old in your care unattended to save the lives of countless others. This is the type of decisions our educators and care givers are being prepared to take.

Are you aware that educators are learning to pack bullet wounds along with their CPR/First aid trainings? My sister, who is an elementary school teacher in another state had to complete this training. And while it would be wonderful to live in the naivete that these events would not affect us in Maine the Lewiston Shooting has brought us all to the reality of understanding that we ALL need to prepare.

I stand before you today in support of LD 677^{LD 1109} and LD 1126^{guel}, and to encourage the Judiciary committee to do the same. LD 677^{LD 1109} and LD 1126^{guel} are ways in which the State of Maine can be better prepared. When legislators say there is nothing they can do, their constituents pay the ultimate price, our children pay the ultimate price. Thank you for your time.



<https://publications.aap.org/pediatrics/article/153/4/e2023064311/196816/School-Shootings-in-the-United-States-1997-2022?autologincheck=redirected>



<https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/interactive/school-shootings-database/>



https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/interactive/mass-shootings/?itid=lk_interstitial_enhanced-template



<https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2025/03/05/what-the-data-says-about-gun-deaths-in-the-us/>



<https://www.fbi.gov/file-repository/2023-active-shooter-report-062124.pdf?>