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Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy, distinguished members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee, I am Representative Joshua Morris, and I represent the people of Leeds, Turner, and Wayne. I am here today to present **LD 525, "An Act to Strengthen Maine Citizens' Second Amendment Rights by Allowing the Discharge of Firearms on Private Property That Is Within 500 Feet of School Property in Certain Circumstances"**.

Under current Maine law, an individual has the right to defend themselves on their home premises. This is enumerated under Title 17-A, Chapter 5, Subsection 104. It states that we have a right to defend our lives and property by using force if necessary.

Current state law states that you cannot fire a firearm within 500 feet of school property with only a few exceptions generally extended to members of law enforcement or a school sanctioned event. It does not make an exception for someone acting in self-defense or defending their property.

This bill is a clarification; a concerned constituent brought it to me. Initially we asked the attorney general if someone was to act in self-defense and their property was within 500 feet of school property, could they be prosecuted for discharging a firearm. Understandably, without a scenario before them, the AG's office could not give us an answer.

I sponsored this bill because I believe every person has a right to defend themselves from threats to their lives on their property. Where they live should not make a difference, this bill is about ensuring that everyone has the same right to self-defense. While no one has been prosecuted, we should ensure that no one ever will be prosecuted for defending themselves or their loved ones.

Adding this to statute simply clarifies that we are asserting that all Mainers have a right to self-defense on their own property.

Thank you for your time. I would be happy to answer any questions.

Joshua Morris
State Representative

District 91 Leeds, Turner & Wayne