

Testimony of Lani Graham, MD, MPH

IN Opposition to LD 1138

**An Act to Ensure that the Right to Self -Defense Exists Outside the Home by
Removing the Requirement to Retreat**

Presented by Representative John Andrews

Before the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee, April 26, 2021

Senator Deschambault, Representative Warren and Members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee, my name is Lani Graham. I am member of the Public Health Committee (PHC) of the Maine Medical Association (MMA) and the Maine Public Health Association. I am a former Chief Public health Officer for Maine. I live in Freeport. I write to oppose LD 1138.

I'll keep it simple. This bill flies in the face of all we are now confronting in this country regarding the use of firearms. **The facts are that all research shows that families and people are not better protected by laws like this one. Instead, in tense situations, it is far more likely that innocent people or even family members will be killed rather than criminals.**

In addition black and brown people are more likely to be at risk to be killed. People are frightened by others who don't appear like them. **Therefore, this bill is nearly certain to have an adverse racial impact in Maine as it has in the other states where this has been passed.**

These two big factors are unintended, but highly likely, consequences of passing this bill. What Maine people and everyone in this country needs to learn now is how to deescalate tense situations, not more gun use.

Please vote this bill unanimously out of committee, ought not to pass.

