

Laura Lander  
Harpwell

Senator Deschambault, Representative Warren, and distinguished members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee, I am Laura Lander, and I live in Harpswell.

With national tensions at an all-time high, with the shredding of social norms regarding basic courtesy, with the hate rhetoric we see spewing from various sources, with the results of a pandemic and its associated stress, illness, loss and financial ruin, with the levels of gun violence already tragically elevated, the LAST THING Maine needs is a Stand Your Ground law.

These laws are a threat to public safety. There is no evidence that they deter crime, in fact, states that have enacted Stand Your Ground laws have only seen a marked increase in homicides.

Traditional self-defense laws are already sufficient. Making it legal for anyone to use lethal force as a first step, and at the slightest provocation, with automatic legal immunity, is only asking for trouble. In the best of times, it is totally unnecessary. With current stress levels, enacting this law would be like throwing a match into a can of gasoline.

Please spare Mainers this additional grief. Please do NOT pass LD 1138.  
Thank you.