

I am submitting this written testimony in opposition to the adoption of LD 1138 a stand your ground law for which there is absolutely no justification in the State of Maine. This is truly a so called solution in search of a problem and is more likely a sop to gun owners by some Maine Republicans. It is political, purely and simply. A recent Rand Corporation study reached the following conclusion: "Summary: Evidence that stand-your-ground laws may increase total homicide rates is moderate, and evidence that such laws may increase firearm homicide rates is supportive. Evidence for the effect of stand-your ground laws on other types of violent crime is inconclusive." So rather than protect against gun violence, it more than likely enhances its probability.

I am completely stunned that as mass shootings have plagued our nation in recent years, with several just this year, that anyone would be so blind to the epidemic of gun deaths in our country as to propose a law that would in fact further increase the rate of gun deaths. It is illogical and dangerous.

I am not a gun opponent nor do I support gun confiscation or registration. I owned a gun for several years and enjoyed shooting as a sport. I am a US Army veteran and am trained in the handling of firearms. However I also support reasonable gun regulations designed to insure that only those who can be entrusted with firearms may obtain or possess them and that devices that enable the rapid shooting of large numbers of people are prohibited. Such regulations do not in any way interfere with 2nd Amendment rights nor the use of firearms for sport or self defense.

In conclusion I strongly urge the committee to vote not to pass this unwarranted and dangerous bill.

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