

April 26, 2021

**Testimony in opposition to LD #1138: An Act To Ensure the Right to Self-defense Exists outside the Home by Removing the Requirement To Retreat**

Good morning Senator Deschambault, Representative Warren, and members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee. My name is Allison Long. I am a resident of Buckfield, an educator, mother, neighbor, gun owner and active community member. I am here to testify vehemently against LD #1138. For the sake of our children, our communities, and our neighbors--especially our neighbors of color--I implore you not to pass this dangerous, discriminatory and unnecessary bill.

Stand Your Ground laws contribute to to more than 150 additional gun deaths each month in the United States. In states with these laws, homicides in which white shooters kill Black victims are deemed justifiable five times more frequently than in the reverse situation. In a state as white as Maine with as many firearms as we have, this bill would directly endanger the lives of our Black family members, friends and neighbors. Maine absolutely should not contribute to their further discrimination and daily trauma by passing this bill.

LD #1138 would open the door to dangerous "vigilante" actions like those that resulted in the deaths of Trayvon Martin, Ahmad Arbury, and many others whose names are less well-known. Maine must do everything it can to prevent such violent tragedies from happening here.

Before any human life is taken in alleged self-defense, all other options for mitigating danger must be exhausted. Please vote "ought no to pass" on this dangerous and discriminatory bill. Thank you.

Allison Long  
Buckfield, Maine