

Diane Vernesoni
Wiscasset
LD 168

Dear Senator Beebe, Rep Salisbury, and members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety committee,

My name is Diane Vernesoni, and I live in Topsham.

I would like you not to pass LD 168, An Act Regarding Criminal Background Checks for the Sale, Transfer, or Exchange of Firearms,

Guns don't kill people, people kill people. There is already a check when you buy a gun to make sure you aren't on any federal or state watchlist. I don't believe the criminals who are the ones committing the deaths we hear about are worried about background checks. As far as transfer or exchange, this could be between family members or an inheritance, etc. This would make the practice of buying your child a gun for hunting very difficult. This is a Constitutional as well as a humane right.

Being armed puts us less at risk. In fact, armed citizens have actually saved many, many unarmed people from being killed by a would-be assailant. The Declaration of Independence states our rights of "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

Sometimes this can only be accomplished by being armed. The Second Amendment of the Bill of Rights in our Constitution gives us the right to "bear arms." It shall not be infringed upon. Therefore, the state of Maine may not take away our right to "bear arms" as given to us under the US Constitution!

Thank you for your consideration.