

Elizabeth Carlson
South Portland
LD 551

Testimony of Elizabeth Carlson before the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee in OPPOSITION to LD551 - An Act to Strengthen Maine Citizens' Second Amendment Rights by Allowing the Discharge of Firearms on Private Property That is Within 500 Feet of School Property in Certain Circumstances.

Distinguished members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee, my name is Elizabeth Carlson and I am a resident of South Portland. When I drove past exit 15 on 295 to see a car riddled with bullet holes and armed officers casing the woods due to an active shooter I instantly thought of my son and friends and a need to confirm their safety. While they were safe at daycare in Portland, not in Yarmouth, was little comfort knowing of the multiple school shootings that occur in otherwise “safe” communities. That weapons of mass murder are legal in this country allows for this most primal fear that our children and their caregivers could be shot to death to have merit.

Research shows that when more people are carrying firearms in public, violent crime rates rise. We all want to keep our families safe, so firearms should not be allowed within 500 feet of school property where children are playing and learning. An overwhelming majority of law enforcement officers agree that armed citizens in or near places like schools would make their jobs harder.

Thank you for your time and consideration. This is not a matter of freedom – the freedom to own guns is not at question here, it is a matter of safety and common sense.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Carlson