

May 7, 2023

RE: LD 551 - 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

Dear Distinguished Members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee,

My name is Gail Witherill and I live in Cumberland. I am writing to urge you to vote ONTP on LD 551. More firearms in public do not make us safer. In fact, it is the opposite as research already shows. People allowed to have firearms within 500 feet of a school property, even if they are on private property, does not make our schools safer. Given the active shooter drills the kids already go thru, gun fire close to schools will exacerbate the situation. Can you imagine how students' mental health will deteriorate even more? Someone firing a gun within 500 feet of a school in the midst of an active shooter drill will cause undue stress and harm to the kids. Just say NO to LD 551.

Sincerely,

Gail Witherill
Cumberland