

April 23, 2023

Dear Members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee,

LD 1557 is a terrible bill for many reasons, but primarily because we do not need individuals with concealed guns in our schools. My husband is a high school teacher and I retired from classroom teaching in 2020. We have spent our careers trying to give children a safe and stimulating educational experience, and reaching out to those marginalized children so everyone feels welcomed in our classrooms. Our schools are places of learning. You must not give in to people's fear and the gun lobby's talking points. Armed persons in schools will put everyone at risk of harm.

I find it unreasonable to allow people with concealed guns in our schools. As you know, some students in our high schools do not "age out" until the age of 21. This law, if passed, would allow high school students, 18 or older, to conceal carry their weapons while attending school. The presence of armed individuals will cause children and teachers more anxiety and make it harder for us, as teachers, to create a welcoming culture in our schools. The idea of hardening our schools is the opposite of what we need to do. This bill is yet another shallow ploy by the gun lobby and those legislators who benefit from the NRA to make guns more prevalent in our society.

I say, "Enough is enough." We must say "No" to more guns as the solution to the epidemic of gun violence. Let's treat the disease at its root—by addressing the causes of gun violence through research-informed policies at the state and national level.

Sincerely,

Robin Brooks  
(she, hers)

47 Ivanhoe Drive  
Topsham, Maine 04086

207-232-9734

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Topsham  
LD 1557

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