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March 27, 2018

Senator Lisa Keim  
Representative Matthew Moonen  
Committee on Judiciary  
State House  
Augusta ME 04332

Re: L.D. 1884, An Act To Create a Community Protection Order To Allow Courts To Prevent High-risk Individuals from Possessing Firearms

Dear Senator Keim and Representative Moonen:

I am submitting the following statement in support of L.D. 1884 because I believe the situation described below is precisely the kind of situation in which this bill would be helpful.

On 02/20/18 at approximately 1530 hrs., FBI special agent Raymond Goergen contacted me at the Ellsworth Police Department. S/A Goergen advised they received a report that someone had sent messages threatening to go kill kids at Ellsworth High School, in a manner similar to the recent school shooting in Florida. He advised that the threat specifically mentioned shooting the school resource officer and people in the office, then pulling the fire alarm to get all the kids together. S/A Goergen provided a copy of the exact statements. The threatening comments were made on a global chat while the person making the threats was playing the game Clash of Clans. S/A Goergen said that they checked the IP address, 76.178.223.5, and it came back registered to 343 Main St. in Ellsworth. S/A Goergen provided the user name, hpu357, which was responsible for the threats. He advised the game headquarters is in Finland and when they saw the comments contacted the FBI office in Denmark.

We made contact with the source of the threats who was a 19 year old male who lived at 343 Main St. with his mother. We were familiar with the male and aware that he is currently on deferred disposition for an assault which took place in school where he struck a fellow student over the head with his casted arm. The male was also on a deferred disposition status for an OUI drugs charge. After interviewing the male, he was taken into custody and charged with Terrorizing Class C.

A subsequent interview with the male's mother, revealed that there were guns in the residence; however, mom claimed that the 19 year old did not have access to the firearms. We consulted with our district attorney's office and were told that we did not have probable cause to support a search warrant to seize the weapons from the residence.

Further investigation revealed eye witness testimony that confirmed the male not only had access to the firearms, in the residence, but at one point he actually had possession of a shot gun which he referenced in his threats to commit violence against our schools. The girlfriend reported that his mother allowed him to take the shot gun which reportedly was left to him by his deceased father. This shot gun is the very same weapon which his father used to kill himself in 2014. Once we obtained this additional information we were able to secure a search warrant for the mothers residence to seize any and all weapons. However, in the time that passed, mom removed the weapons from the residence and claims to have sold them. This claim however cannot be substantiated.

It is our fear without safeguards in place to prevent this 19 year old male from possessing a firearm or having access to firearms, we will not be able to ensure the safety and security of our community, specifically our school children from the potential threat he possess. Law enforcement officials currently have no way to prevent him from having access to firearms, short of a felony conviction or an involuntary committal. It is my belief that had we been able to obtain a Community Protection Order at the onset of this case, we could have been able to seize the weapons from the home, therefore offering us a greater confidence that he will not have access to the weapons in the future.

Respectfully,

*s/ GMM*

Glenn M. Moshier  
Chief of Police