

April 3, 2023

To: Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety

From: Mary Owen, 22 Sewall Street, Augusta, Maine 04330

Re: Public Hearing: LD 60 An Act to Require a 72-hour Waiting Period After the Sale of a Firearm

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Salisbury and distinguished members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee, I am Mary Owen, and I live in Augusta. I am writing in support of LD 60, a bill that would require a waiting period between purchase and possession of a gun.

Anger, impulsiveness, and feeling isolated are normal human emotions. In all of us, these emotions have the potential to increase the risk of careless, regrettable, deadly behavior.

In 2021, 277 Mainers died by suicide. Of these deaths, 56% (158) of the victims used a firearm. Most of these deaths involved men between the ages of 25 and 64. What these men needed most was time and distance between themselves and a gun.

Laws mandating waiting periods for gun acquisitions save lives. We have a responsibility to the husbands, fathers, grandfathers, brothers, and uncles in our state to put time on their side when they consider buying a gun.

Thank you for listening.

Mary Owen
Augusta
LD 60

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