

April 3, 2023

## Testimony in Opposition to LD 60

### An Act to Require a 72-hour Waiting Period After the Sale of a Firearm

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Salisbury, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety:

My name is Nathan Gould. I am from Winterport. I am giving this testimony in opposition to LD 60, “An Act to Require a 72-hour Waiting Period After the Sale of a Firearm.”

Presumption of innocence until proven guilty is a fundamental legal principle, but this bill assumes the opposite. LD 60 posits that law abiding citizens cannot be trusted and must have their Second Amendment rights infringed upon.

Placing barriers to responsible gun ownership is not only unconstitutional, but dangerous. Firearms are frequently used in self-defense. We see high-profile cases such as with Kyle Rittenhouse in 2020 in which he defended himself from three criminals in Kenosha, Wisconsin; in 2019 firearms instructor Jack Wilson defended his church in Texas from an attacker<sup>1</sup>; last year Elisjsha Dicken’s quick action prevented a massacre at a mall in Indiana<sup>2</sup>; just last February an armed bystander in El Paso stopped a shooter<sup>3</sup>.

---

1 Bleiberg, Jake and Stengle, Jamie, “Firearms instructor took out gunman at Texas church service,” *Associated Press*, December 31, 2019, <https://apnews.com/article/gun-politics-texas-religion-ap-top-news-us-news-de8a2aebc6d95b9131a08975a5d881f9>

2 Albert, Victoria, “Armed civilian neutralized Indiana mall shooter in just 15 seconds, authorities say,” *CBS News*, July 19, 2022, <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/indiana-mall-shooting-elisjsha-dicken-neutralized-gunman-15-seconds/>

3 Martinez, Aaron, and Kolenc, Vic, “Bystander shot Cielo Vista Mall gunman as suspect fled fight while pointing gun,” *El Paso Times*, February 19, 2023, <https://www.elpasotimes.com/story/news/crime/2023/02/17/by-stander-shot-cielo->

It's not only these front page stories, for there are also lesser known cases all the time. In Iowa<sup>4</sup>, Louisiana<sup>5</sup>, Georgia<sup>6</sup>, Arizona<sup>7</sup>, Connecticut<sup>8</sup>, Michigan<sup>9</sup>, Florida<sup>10</sup>, and elsewhere in our nation, law abiding citizens exercise their right to defend themselves and those around them. It has been shown that firearms are used for protection more than 2 million times a year<sup>11</sup>. There are many cases in which the firearm does not need to be fired and just the presence of an armed citizen prevents an attack.

Firearms have been called "the great equalizer." If a 100-pound woman is being stalked by a 300-pound man, she should not have to wait 72-hours to exercise her right to protect herself and her family. Such a delay could be catastrophic.

Those who wrote the Constitution of the State of Maine wisely recognized our natural right to self-defense in Article I, Section 16: "Every citizen has a right to keep and bear arms and this right shall never be questioned."

I ask the Committee to vote Ought Not to Pass, and I thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Nathan C Gould

Winterport

---

[vista-mall-shooter-as-suspect-fled-scene/69917660007/](#)

4 WHO13, Des Moines, Iowa, 1/9/23

5 Tangipahoa Parish Sheriff's Office, Hammond, Louisiana 1/2/23

6 Ellijay Police Department, Ellijay, Georgia, 1/10/23

7 Fox 10 Phoenix, Phoenix, Arizona 1/18/23

8 NBC Connecticut, Hartford, Connecticut 1/3/23

9 foxnews.com, New York, New York 12/18/22

10 wrkg.com, Pensacola, Florida 1/4/23

11 Kleck, Gary and Gertz, Marc. (1995). "Armed Resistance to Crime: the Prevalence and Nature of Self-defense with a Gun." *Journal of Criminal Law & Criminology* 86(1):150-187