

Caleb Burgess  
Bath  
LD 2130

I oppose LD 2130.

Year after year, law-abiding gun owners have been subject to a barrage of anti-gun bills from out-of-state interest groups like Michael Bloomberg's Everytown for Gun Safety. Despite these constant attacks on our Second Amendment rights, bipartisan members of the Maine legislature have defeated these bills time and time again. Now, in the wake of the tragedy in Lewiston, these same groups are attempting to capitalize and pass failed cookie-cutter gun policies that do not serve the people of Maine but instead serve their national agenda.

As you likely know, it was well-known that the shooter was severely mentally ill, and it was the failings of America's mental health system and the enforcement of existing laws that lead us the tragedy in October. Any reasonable Mainer can see the solution to this problem is not more one-size-fits-all gun control, but rather a comprehensive plan to address mental health shortfalls and provide more resources to public safety departments to protect our communities.

While Mainers like you and me understand the root problem, these gun-control groups from away are funneling massive amounts of money from Michael Bloomberg to finally pass these unconstitutional measures that will have not impact on violent crime and will only disarm law-abiding citizens.

The legislative agenda these radical groups are demanding have no place in Maine. Banning commonly-owned firearms would make Mainers criminals overnight for the simple act of owning a firearm. Universal Background Checks, which was recently shot done by Maine voters at the ballot box, blocks the ability for law-abiding Mainers to lend a firearm to family and friends. Waiting periods put abuse victims at risk by denying them their right to urgent self-defense. Gun confiscation would remove Mainers of their property due process and the right to be heard. While law-abiding Mainers will follow these restrictive laws, criminals, who, by definition, do not follow the law, will not. These extreme measures put citizens' safety in jeopardy, do not address any issues surrounding the Lewiston shooting, and our out-of-step with Maine's proud gun owning heritage.

Because of the reasons stated above, law-abiding gun owners like me strongly urge you to oppose this radical legislation and instead find a pragmatic solution that addresses our mental health shortfalls and provide police officers the resources to keep our community safe.