

Testimony in Opposition to LD 2238

“An Act to Address Gun Violence in Maine by Requiring a Waiting Period for Certain Firearm Purchases”

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen and distinguished members of the Committee on judiciary, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding LD 2238. Below is my testimony in opposition to LD 60: "An Act to Require a 72-hour waiting Period After the Sale of A Firearm", which has already been voted on by the 131st Maine Legislature.

Current federal law mandates that those purchasing firearms from a retailer or federal firearms licensee be subject to a National Instant Criminal Background Check (NICS). If one passes their federal background check they are allowed to continue with the sale and leave with their firearm. Those that do not immediately pass the background check are subject to a waiting period while the FBI conducts further checks in order to decide whether to approve or deny the transfer.

Furthermore, the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act expands background checks if a purchaser between the ages of 18-20 years of age requires further investigation. Under this law the FBI can request an additional seven days to make their determination. This bill does nothing to address firearms crime and misuse that is not already addressed in federal law.

A 72 hour mandatory waiting period would do nothing to prevent further crime or stop prohibited persons from procuring a firearm. Rather it would create an immense burden to those who lawfully purchase firearms.

Jared H. Hirshfield
Kennebunk