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LD 2119

I'm writing in opposition to LD 2119, An Act to Support Suicide Prevention by Allowing the Voluntary Waiver of Firearm Rights.

I find this bill to be more about gun control than suicide prevention. This bill would create a legal avenue for Maine residents to waive their Second Amendment rights and be prohibited from purchasing a firearm. Major concerns surround this bill including the ability for an individual to be coerced or intimidated into forfeiting their Constitutional rights. Additionally, this bill has no clear rights restoration process, meaning that someone who forfeits their rights may never be able to regain them and remain a prohibited individual indefinitely. A suicidal person does have the ability to prevent their access to firearms without giving up their 2nd Amendment rights.

Approximately 60% of gun deaths in the U.S. are suicides. If a suicidal person is intent on ending their life, and they don't have access to a firearm, they'll just find another way. So, this bill will accomplish nothing when it comes to suicide prevention. Again, this bill is more about gun control than suicide prevention.

Evidence shows that providing support services, knowing the risk factors, recognizing the warning signs, talking about suicide, reducing access to means of self-harm (not just guns), and following up with loved ones are just some of the actions we can all take to help others. Perhaps you should be more focused on educating the public of these actions. Perhaps you should be more focused on providing more local crisis centers and mental health services. Again, this bill is more about gun control than suicide prevention.

I urge this committee to vote "Ought Not To Pass" on LD 2119.