

Barbara Baket
Bradley
LD 2237

TO: The Honorable Joseph Baldacci
The Honorable Michele Meyer
Members of the Committee on Health and Human Services
DATE: March 4, 2024

RE: An Act to Strengthen Public Safety, Health and Well-being by Expanding
Services and Coordinating Violence Prevention Resources - Speaker. Rachel Talbot
Ross of Portland

Good morning Senator Baldacci and Representative Meyer,

My name is Barbara Baker. I'm a resident of Bradley. I am testifying Ought to Pass
on LD 2237.

I believe this bill is a good idea because too many accidental deaths are caused by
guns getting into the wrong hands through inadequate safety procedures in the home,
lack of a waiting period and failure to have educational materials about responsible
gun ownership available to the public at gun shops. And there is a great need for
mobile mental health facilities to respond to specific mental health and specific crisis
techniques to be built into existing crisis intervention services. This bill is
comprehensive and needs to be adequately funded.

Please help Maine communities to respond to increasing need by Establishing an
Office of Violence Prevention within the Maine Centers for Disease Control to
coordinate and educate the public and fund all the specific coordinating agencies
specified within this bill.

I have spent a career in youth development increasing safe and fun opportunities for
youth to grow into responsible adults who continue contributing to the benefit of
community throughout their lives.

I remember the shock, astonishment and fear on the afternoon we learned about the
shootings at Columbine School and nearly immediately went into a professional
development session to search for resources and techniques to help young people and
families address and cope with the horror. How did we become a society where a
similar terror, suicide, or accident by gun happens somewhere to someone's lives even
here in Maine?

This bill will help everyone by increasing safety so a few don't ruin their own lives
and the lives of others by accident, mental crisis, or lack of education; it takes a
whole-of-government approach to address gun safety.

Please vote Ought to Pass on LD 2237.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Barbara Baker, Bradley, ME