

Dan Lynch  
Freeport  
LD 2238

March 3, 2024

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

I am testifying in support of LD 2238: An Act to Address Gun Violence in Maine by Requiring a Waiting Period for Certain Firearm Purchases.

My name is Daniel Lynch. I am a retired US Navy Captain with over 30 years of service in both the US Marine Corps and US Navy with multiple command tours of operational units. Throughout my career, I received recurring training in a variety of firearms and had occasion to carry a firearm while flying combat sorties over Afghanistan.

While in command some of my primary concerns included training and proficiency with firearms as well as maintaining positive control over their access. These concerns stemmed from multiple studies showing that unfettered access to firearms correlated to increased suicide rates. Those studies also showed that suicide rates could be reduced by adding a time buffer to those experiencing a crisis and the ability to act upon it.

Since retiring I began participating in competitive and instructive shotgun shooting. As a result, I have purchased and own several shotguns so am very familiar with the processes, timelines, and ease of gaining access to an off-the-shelf firearm. I believe in an effort to create a comprehensive public health and public safety approach to gun violence prevention, enacting a waiting period would be a critical tool that would reduce the oft-quoted statistic of 22 veterans committing suicide each day.

In closing, I wish to thank you for consideration of my testimony.

Very respectfully submitted,  
Captain Dan Lynch, US Navy (ret)  
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