

Gabriel Brewer  
Orono  
LD 2119

Hello Representatives, Senators, and all members of this committee, my name is Gabriel Brewer and I am in support of LD 2119: An Act to Support Suicide Prevention by Allowing the Voluntary Waiver of Firearm Rights.

As a school student in the 8th grade, there is no doubt that I feel concerned about school shootings as many of my classmates would agree to some degree. It's just become as normal as a fire drill to do a lockdown drill, it shouldn't have to be like this for any child.

As we know, the somewhat recent shootings in Lewiston and the problems of shootings and suicides in this country have brought to the attention of this state that these things can happen in Maine. A leading cause of suicide or shooting is mental illness. This bill would allow mentally ill people to revoke their firearm rights if they feel that they are unfit to possess them. The reason they would do this is to protect themselves and the people around them from their own behaviors.

The mental health of people in Maine and all across the country has been declining in recent years. According to Maine Public, in 2005, the suicide death rate was roughly 12 per 100,000 people as opposed to 18.1 per 100,000 in 2022. This is dangerous as according to CBS News, 46.8% of adults in Maine own at least one firearm.

A common argument against this could be that the individual wouldn't take their own firearm rights if they were mentally ill. However, According to a study by the National Library of Medicine, self intervention of severe mental illness can be extremely effective at improving the individual's condition.

There is no doubt in my mind that with better mental health resources and this bill, we can limit the amount of suicides and shootings drastically.

Let's help Maine prevent more tragedy in our communities and become a healthier and happier state by passing this bill.

Thank you for listening to my testimony with the limited time you have. Have a blessed day everyone.