

Austin Marie Dow
Standish ME
LD 2224

My name is Austin Marie, and I am a young woman (26) originally from Falmouth, ME, and currently residing in Standish with my husband. I am an avid outdoors woman, and enjoy the outdoors of Maine.

I have been active in engaging with the local Maine and National congress in the past, and know many of the different Senators and Representatives in the Maine congress, including Representative Heidi Sampson, previous Representative Patrick Corey, Representative Stephen Moriarty, (who greatly helped me during the pandemic!) Senator Jim Libby, and previous Representative Ellie Espling, who is also a personal acquaintance of mine.

I am also an avid firearms enthusiast, and am passionate about training myself and also helping other women learn how to be their own first responder, and safely train/educate themselves on safe firearms usage and defense. I worked at the firearms counter at Cabela's in Scarborough for 4 years, as the first and only female to work in that position of directly educating and selling firearms to customers of all ages and genders.

I am writing to testify against LD 2224.

The Red Flag Law and Universal Background Checks in this bill have already been voted down this legislature, and Universal Background Checks were recently voted down by Maine voters at the ballot box.

If passed, this bill would require all "advertised" sales to be subject to background checks regardless of the relationship between the buyer and the seller to close the so-called "gun show loophole" and stop Mainers from selling firearms on Facebook. First and foremost, there is no gun-show loophole. All purchases through Federal Firearms Licensees (FFLs) are required to go through background checks regardless of location or where the sale takes place. Additionally, Facebook already bans firearm sales on their website, highlighting a further misunderstanding of firearm sales by the Mills administration. Finally, this bill puts Mainers at risk of becoming felons for the simple act of transferring a firearm to a family member, friend, or neighbor.

In addition to proposing failed Universal Background Checks, LD 2224 also seeks to expand Maine's current Yellow Flag law to Red Flag "Extreme Risk Protection Order" laws. These laws strip citizens of their Second Amendment rights without due process based on weak and nebulous standards. If passed, Maine's Red Flag law could strip Mainers of their Constitutional rights without a hearing and based on hearsay for up to 30 days. It does not include any penalties for erroneous accusations, allowing for an open season against gun owners in Maine.

We already had a system in place to arrest him before the Lewiston shooting... and it wasn't used. The yellow flag law (that they promised would save lives) was also not used. His son went to the school and told them it was going to happen and nothing was done. His family asked for help and didn't get any.

The police dropped the ball, the military dropped the ball and the mental health facilities dropped the ball. People were killed because people didn't do their jobs. By your (your being the sponsors of this bill) OWN admission in a press conference this week, it was admitted that these new proposals and bills would have made no impact on the Lewiston tragedy.

Maine has a Mental Health problem... let's fix it.

Maine has a drug problem... let's fix it.

Maine has a domestic violence problem... let's fix It.

Maine DOES NOT HAVE A GUN PROBLEM. We have 3xs as many guns in Maine as people. Even after Lewiston, we are still statistically the safest state in the Union. We need the laws on the books ENFORCED.

If the same amount of effort, money, and time was put into enforcing the current laws that already exist as is being put into this new bill, the Lewiston shooting WOULD

NOT HAVE HAPPENED.

If the necessary funding is not in place to allow for the enforcement of current law, this is something that needs to be addressed at a budgetary level, rather than restricting the rights of Maine citizens and making more laws that will not be enforced, as the current laws were not enforced.

Thank you for your time, please do not support this bill.

Austin Marie Dow.