

Austin Marie Dow
Standish ME
LD 2238

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 2238.

This bill delays and inhibits Maine's Second Amendment rights by imposing a three-day waiting period before an individual may receive a firearm that they lawfully purchase, with limited exemptions. There is no evidence that waiting periods reduce violent crime. If passed, LD 2238 would deny the right of self-defense to abuse victims or any individual facing an imminent threat. Additionally, waiting periods would destroy Maine's hunting tourism industry because guides would be unable to provide hunters with firearms and local firearm dealers would be unable to sell and transfer firearms in a timely manner.

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.