



March 4, 2024

Honorable Senator Carney, Representative Moonen and members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Rev. Christine Dyke, I am Lead Minister at First Parish Church UCC in Gorham. I ask you to support LD2238 and its aim to decrease gun violence and suicide by instituting a 72-hour waiting period.

I have sat with families who have lost loved ones to suicide, and all wished that they had had more time to address the mental health issues they had seen in their loved ones. Often, they were responding the best they could, but felt like they did not have enough time to find the resources that were available and work with their loved one to accept assistance.

I also have counselled many people after they experienced passionate responses to situations in which they felt they were harmed. Some were concerned that they thought about using violence to respond to the situation. A 72-hour waiting period would allow a cooling-off time, and the additional work of sitting and waiting gives people time to reflect on their choices. Those who plan a purchase with no intent of harm can build that time into the purchase process and that slight inconvenience is more than justified by the reduction in harm that will result for others. Our interdependent lives require that we consider others and their needs.

I urge you to pass the 72-hour waiting period make Maine a safer place.

Thank you

Rev. Christine Dyke
First Parish Congregational Church, UCC, Gorham