

William Smith
Gorham
LD 2119

In Opposition of LD 2119 "An Act to Support Suicide Prevention by Allowing the Voluntary Waiver of Firearm Rights"

Senators and Representatives of the Committee On Judiciary, my name is William Smith and I live in Gorham. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition of LD 2119.

This bill assumes that a large number of people commit suicide using a firearm purchased with the intent of killing themselves. This is not true according to a Stanford study done in 2020 which showed a majority of suicides by firearm are done by men who already own a handgun for over a year.

In addition this bill declares we have an Emergency and people need to be able to utilize the mechanisms spelled out in the bill. Firearm use has been the primary cause of death by firearm for many, many years and suicide itself had been on the rise but has decreased nationally in recent years. Section 16 of the Maine Constitution clearly states an emergency bill shall include only such measures as are IMMEDIATELY necessary. There is no significant relative change of rates of suicide in the immediate past and therefore suicide by firearm is not an emergency.

This bill also does nothing to help an individual who is considering suicide and already has firearms. And in this state, due to the likelihood of firearms possession, the scenario where someone takes their own life with a firearm they have owned for a significant time is very probable.

This bill is ill written also in that Section 2D declares the information on the forms is intended to be given to Law Enforcement but does not say "for the sole use of performing the acts described in Section 2C". This information should not be retained by Law Enforcement or used by them for any purpose other than that described in Section 2C.

Creating a funding bill to promote groups like Hold My Guns would do far more good than this bill will if turned in to law.

In light of the above information I request you members of the Committee to vote OUGHT NOT PASS for LD 2119.

Thank you.

William Smith
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