

Don McCann
Bangor
LD 2238

To those of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing this testimony in opposition to LD 2238.

It's very plain to see that this bill is being introduced because of the tragic events in Lewiston. Although I'm sure we all feel horrible about this incident, this bill would not have stopped this from occurring.

The FBI still runs the same background check whether it is instant or waiting 3 days later. And during this time many people who are trying to obtain a weapon of self defense can be put at risk.

A domestic violence situation for example could become very dangerous if protection is not obtained in the usual amount of time.

Furthermore, no waiting period has been shown to curtail homicides or suicides or mass shootings. There is not one study on the books that shows that an increased waiting period would stop any of these from occurring.

A waiting period would not have stopped the tragedy in Lewiston, and it's an arbitrary measure that is not based in reality. It does nothing to improve the background

check system, assess the mental health of the purchaser, or prevent firearms from getting

into the hands of criminals. In fact, it imposes a burden on law-abiding individuals who

want to obtain a firearm for personal protection.

Months before the tragedy in Lewiston, Robert Card was showing signs of paranoia.

On May

3, 2023, a Citizen Assist complaint originating from a local public school address was logged with the Sagadahoc County Sheriff's Office.

In July 2023, Card is admitted to a mental health facility in New York and spent 14 days in

that hospital. It is well-documented that Card acted violently and even assaulted a fellow

soldier.

In September 2023, weeks before the shooting, police received a request from the Maine

National Guard to do a welfare check on Robert Card.

The reality of this tragedy is that there signs for a year leading up to the shooting that Card

was violent. He made threats and acted violently. Prior to the shooting, Card allegedly committed several serious crimes but he was not charged. Why not? Repeatedly, Card showed serious signs of danger and his behavior was largely ignored.

A reasonable person can conclude: a 72 hour waiting period would have not have prevented this tragedy from occurring, especially since Robert Card lawfully owned firearms for years.

Instead, a 72 hour waiting period would prevent every law-abiding individual who wants to

purchase a firearm for self-protection from obtaining one.