

Meret Bainbridge, 26 Cleveland Street, Saco, ME 04072

Testimony in support of LD 2238, An Act to Address Gun Violence in Maine by Requiring a Waiting Period for Certain Firearm Purchases (Sen, Rotundo)

Committee on Judiciary, PH 3/7/2024

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen and Members of the Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Meret Bainbridge, I am a resident of Saco, a healthcare provider, and a Unitarian Universalist. I am also a native of Germany which has much stricter firearms laws than the United States and I present my testimony informed by that background.

I am submitting testimony in favor of Senator Rotundo's bill, LD 2238.

I have lived in the United States for 36 years and raised two children and two stepchildren here. In these decades I have lost count of the number of school shootings and mass shootings that have become a daily occurrence in this country, a phenomenon that sets the US aside from other countries with sensible gun laws. I have lost count of the many times I wished I had stayed in Europe where children don't have to grow up with lockdown drills.

I will never understand the attitude of people who love their guns more than their children, the resistance of politicians to implement gun regulations because of pressure (and campaign contributions) by the gun lobby, and the willingness to endanger and sacrifice innocent civilians including school children for the "right to bear arms".

While I swore an oath to uphold the US constitution when I became a citizen in 2018, personally I believe the second amendment has been vastly misinterpreted beyond what the framers intended when they tied that right to a "well-regulated militia". That constitutional right to bear arms ties our hands to regulate the vast proliferation of privately owned weapons of mass destructions in this country. Personally, I would like to see a ban on military style assault weapons, a red flag law, the prohibition of bump stocks and universal background checks.

This bill is a very good start to mandate a 72-hour waiting period on most firearms purchases. It allows appropriate background checks and a cooling down period for individuals who may want to purchase a firearm in a mental health crisis with the intent to commit suicide or violence against others.

I am concluding my testimony with a visual illustration: a scanned image of a drawing that my youngest daughter rendered in art class in her freshman year in high school, after years of repeated lockdown drills. This is the reality our children grow up with now.

Please vote OTP on LD 2238. Thank you.

(see next page for scanned image)



Drawing credit: Megan Bainbridge, in freshman art class at Thornton Academy, Saco