

Eva White
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LD 2238

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and members of the Judiciary Committee,
My name is Eva White, and I am a senior at the University of Maine.

A few years ago, my dad had a best friend. They shared countless memories of camping on the Maine coast, fooling around in their first real job out of college, and watching each others' children grow up together. My dad's best friend was an incredible man. He was an incredible man that was fighting every day against depression and alcoholism. One day, years into this war, he found himself in what I can only imagine to be Hell. In a moment of hopelessness, he left his wife and children at home, bought a handgun from a shop close by, and returned to his parked car. The gun he bought was used only once, to put a single bullet through his head. I have never seen my dad so lost as he did on that day.

I hope that anyone reading this imagines their spouse, their best friend, or their child sitting in the driver's seat of the car you take to soccer practice, dance rehearsal, and date night. Sitting in that seat feeling so defeated that they drive to a firearm shop. What outcome would you want for this person you love? Would you want them to walk into that store, purchase a gun as if it were a pack of gum, and use it to end their life in the parking lot? Or, would you rather them walk into that store and be unable to leave with a weapon? Of course, their war would not be over. But at least they would live long enough to see a flash of the picture of their kids they keep paperclipped to the sun visor.

Enacting a 72-hour waiting period between an agreement for the purchase of a firearm and the sale and delivery of that firearm will save lives. My dad will never get his best friend back, but you all have the power to make it more difficult for the same thing to happen to someone else in the future. Vote Ought to Pass on LD2238. Thank you.