

Elizabeth Hedgpeth
Portland
LD 2238

I am writing to testify against LD 2238

This bill will add a three day waiting period before an individual may receive a firearm that they have already lawfully purchased.

There is no evidence that waiting periods reduce violent crime.

If passed this could actually be dangerous for people in situations of self defense, abuse victims or any individual facing an imminent, by denying them the right to immediately protect themselves with the firearm they lawfully purchased.

A waiting period will also hurt Manie's hunting tourism industry because guides would be unable to provide hunters with firearms and local firearm dealers would be unable to sell and transfer firearms in a timely manner.

Those sponsoring the bill have already admitted that these new proposals and bills would no have made a difference on the Lewiston Tragedy. There already is a system in place that could have stopped the Lewiston shooting before it happened; the yellow flag law.

The shooters son went to the school and told them it was going to happen and nothing was done. The family asked for help and didn't get any.

The Lewiston shooting happened because multiple people (police, military, and mental health facilities) dropped the ball and did not do their job. The laws already in place were not enforced.

Maine does not have a gun problem, we have 3xs as many guns in the state as people and we are still statistically the safest in the Union even after the Lewiston tragedy. Maine does have a Mental Health problem, a drug problem, a domestic violence problem lets fix those.

I believe that if the same amount of effort, money and time was put into enforcing the current laws that already exist as there is being put into this new bill, the Lewiston shooting would not have happened.

If the necessary funding is not in place to allow for the enforcement of current gun laws, that is something that needs to be addressed at a budgetary level, rather than restricting the rights of Maine citizens and making more laws that will not be enforced, as the current laws were not enforced.

Please do not support this bill, Thank you for your time.