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LD 2224

I am writing to testify against LD 2224

The Red Flag Law and Universal Background Checks in this bill have already been voted down by legislature and in the ballot box by Maine voters.

This bill purposes to require all "advertised" sales to be subjected to background checks. This would be regardless of the relationship between the buyer and seller which would close the so-called "gun show loophole" and stop Mainers from selling firearms on marketplaces like Facebook.

Firstly there is no "gun show loophole." All purchases through Federal Firearms Licensees are already required to go through background checks regardless of location or where the sale takes place.

Secondly Facebook already bans firearm sales on their website.

Finally this bill will put Mainers at risk of becoming felons for the simple act of transferring a firearm to a family member, friend, or neighbor.

In addition this bill also seeks to expand Maine's current Yellow Flag Law to Red Flag "Extreme Risk Protection Order." This will strip citizens of their Second Amendment rights without due process based on weak and nebulous standards without a hearing and based on hearsay for up to 30 days. It does not include any penalties for erroneous accusations, allowing for an open season against gun owners in Maine.

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.