

March 3, 2024

31 High Street
Hallowell, ME. 04347

Dear Senator Anne Carney, Representative Matt Moonen, and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee, I am writing to urge you to support LD 2238, which will require a 72 hour waiting period to take possession of a firearm after the purchase.

LD 2238's post purchase waiting period will provide a critical period to give an angry or suicidal buyer 72 hours to reconsider inflicting harm on self or others. Gun purchase waiting periods reduce the number of firearm deaths. States that have licensing or post-purchase waiting period laws have substantially lower firearm suicide percentages and total lower suicide rates than states without such laws.

I am particularly thinking of the high rate of youth suicides in Maine, and the high rate of suicides in our veteran population. The Maine youth suicide rate is 16.4 per 100,000; the Maine veteran suicide rate is 42.1 per 100,000. These numbers are heartbreaking to me.

On February 21, 2023 a U.S. Defense Department Committee on Suicide Prevention and Response issued a report, recommending, among other suicide prevention measures, a gun purchase 7 day waiting period to help protect military personnel and veterans.

Thank you for your time and careful consideration of this bill.

Sincerely,
Mary Kane

Mary Kane
Hallowell Maine
LD 2238

/Users/marykane/Desktop/ld2238 testimony.pdf

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