Janice Vance Kennebunk LD 2224

Good morning, Senator Carney, Rep. Moonen, and members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Janice Vance and I live in Kennebunk. I want to thank you for presenting this bill, and I urge you to deem it "ought to pass." This is an interesting bill because it packs in so many different but related elements, which collectively will help reduce gun deaths and injuries in our state. It is obvious a lot of time and care went into analyzing what was lacking in the system in place at the time the October 25th Lewiston shootings took place. The bill language seems to address those circumstances, which were unique to that particular tragedy. I would like you to keep in mind that the next mass shooting in Maine will not happen in exactly the same way, although if history is our guide, it will be committed by a white man using an assault weapon. That seems to be the common denominator in the vast majority of mass shootings. The actual circumstances of each shooting, however, vary considerably. In considering legislation, I hope you will consider tools that have helped reduce gun deaths in other states. For instance, I'd like to see Maine move to the more traditional ERPO laws that are on the books in 21 other states, which allow families and other close contacts to petition the courts to temporarily remove firearms from those in crisis. I would also like to see Maine prohibit the sale and purchase of assault weapons, a law that exists in 10 other states. Again, thank you, and please extend my thanks to Governor Mills, for introducing this bill, which is a great start. Thank you for your time.