

Janice Vance  
Kennebunk  
LD 2238

Good morning, Senator Carney, Rep. Moonen, and members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Janice Vance and I live in Kennebunk. Thank you for introducing this bill to require a waiting period for those purchasing a weapon. Such a bill would have perhaps saved the life of my niece's first husband, who, several years ago, purchased a gun the morning of December 24th, and killed himself that evening. Their children were 12 and 8 at the time. Their Christmas memories, for the rest of their lives, will always include their dad's tragic death. As you probably know, approximately 90 per cent of gun deaths in Maine are suicides. A delay between the decision to buy a gun, and actually gaining access to it, could give someone the time to reconsider, and seek help. The other type of gun death people don't talk about a lot is domestic violence. Women who leave an abusive partner are in danger of being murdered by that partner. Sometimes the partner kills the woman, himself, and even their children. A delay in giving him that gun allows her to seek safety, and allows him time to re-think the situation. Again, thank you, and please deem this bill as "ought to pass."