

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary.

My name is Emily Follo, and I am a Family Medicine physician in Portland, Maine.

This testimony is in support of LD 2119 - An Act to Support Suicide Prevention by Allowing the Voluntary Waiver of Firearm Rights.

The vast majority of firearm-related deaths in Maine, over 85%, are suicides. Maine's firearm-specific suicide rate is higher than that of the United States overall, with over half of completed suicides involving guns. If someone takes the step to voluntarily relinquish their rights to firearms for their own safety, they should absolutely be taken seriously and that request should be acted upon. In my primary care office, if someone discloses to me that they are having suicidal thoughts, it is my job to help ensure their safety. Access to guns is a major risk factor that can be mitigated with this bill. This in no way infringes on Mainers' rights as it is entirely voluntary and reversible.

Thank you for your consideration and your work on this topic.