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***Testimony of Rep. Charles Skold in support of
LD 2224 - An Act to Strengthen Public Safety by Improving Maine's Firearm
Laws and Mental Health System
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary***

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and esteemed members of the Committee on Judiciary, I am Charles Skold, representing part of Portland in House District 119.

I am testifying in support of LD 2224, which includes significant measures to promote public safety, mental health, and responsible gun ownership.

At the same time, I urge this committee to amend LD 2224 so that it also includes an avenue for families and law enforcement to temporarily remove a firearm from a dangerous and potentially lethal situation, under an extreme risk protection order.

Adding this additional pathway would strengthen the impact of LD 2224 and better facilitate its laudable goals of public safety, by providing families and law enforcement more tools to prevent the worst from happening when there is evidence that an individual poses a danger to themselves or others. At times, it may be more prudent, compassionate, and effective to have the option of removing a firearm from a dangerous situation rather than removing an individual.

Thank you for your consideration of such an amendment to LD 2224.

Rep. Charles A. Skold
District 119