

Katherine Ahrens  
YARMOUTH  
LD 2224

LD 2224 - An Act to Strengthen Public Safety by Improving Maine's Firearm Laws and Mental Health System

As a mother, resident of Maine, and public health epidemiologist with over 20 years of experience, I am writing in support of LD 2224 - An Act to Strengthen Public Safety by Improving Maine's Firearm Laws and Mental Health System.

When used well, Yellow Flag can be an important tool for law enforcement to remove access to firearms from someone when they are experiencing a mental health crisis and are a threat to themselves or others. However, leaders in Augusta must create additional processes for temporarily getting guns out of the hands of people who are a threat to themselves or others. Law enforcement needs more tools -- in addition to the Yellow Flag law---to keep their communities safe, and families need more ways to get their loved ones help.

Requiring background checks for online gun sales, sales at gun shows, and other sales that are the result of advertising is a crucial step forward in keeping guns out of the hands of people who shouldn't have them, including domestic abusers, people convicted of other violent crimes, and others. While protecting responsible gun owners, this bill takes important steps towards holding reckless sellers accountable for selling dangerous weapons to people they don't know. Background checks are easy, convenient, and impose almost no burden on law-abiding gun purchasers.

Thank you,  
Kate Ahrens