

Thank you, Senator Carney and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is ELLEN SHAVER

I live in Brunswick and I am strongly in favor of a 72 hour waiting period because I know it will save lives.

90% of deaths by gun in Maine are suicides. Studies show that many of those deaths occur on impulse, as do many homicides and mass killings. A cooling off period can prevent people from acting on such an impulse.

I urge you to pass this bill because it can save other families from suffering a tragic loss as my family did when my grandnephew died by suicide.

Hans was a 22 year old senior at Connecticut College, home for the Christmas break. The previous summer he had spent an internship at a farm in Vermont learning about sustainable agriculture, which he planned on making his career. He was preparing to begin interviewing. He was close with his parents and sister and his long-time girlfriend. They had enjoyed a good Christmas.

Then on the evening of December 30, Hans went out briefly. He returned home and went to his room. A short while later his parents heard a shot, and his father found him dying on his bed from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Because his parents naturally called 911, Hans died in the ambulance with strangers instead of at home with his parents. He was not on drugs. He was not mentally ill. We will never understand why it happened.

He was able to pass the reference check and purchase the gun in half an hour. Just 30 minutes! He left a note to his parents and sister saying he loved them, and it had nothing to do with them. He wrote a separate note to his long-time girlfriend with the same message. Whatever impulse caused him to buy a gun, if there had been a 72 hour waiting period before he could take the gun, he would still be alive.

Lives will be saved if you pass this bill (LD2238) and I urge you to do so.
Thank you for your time and attention.

Ellen Shaver
Brunswick
LD 2238

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