

Holly Travers
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LD 2238

Thank you Senator Carney, Representative Moonen and members of the Judiciary Committee for hearing my testimony. I am Holly Travers and I live in Westbrook. I am testifying in support of LD 2238, the 72 Hour Waiting Period bill. In 2013, I arrived home after the Thanksgiving Holiday to see a neighbor's house cordoned off in yellow crime scene tape. A domestic violence homicide/suicide had taken place. The victim was a 22 year old ER nurse. The shooter was a correctional facility guard. What stood out for me in reading newspaper coverage of the crime, was this phrase: "the weapon was purchased the night before." The shooter also posted on facebook 4 hours before the shooting, "indicating that he was upset about the end of the relationship and about spending Thanksgiving alone". We can help safeguard both the the public and buyers of firearms by instituting a little friction to the process of procuring a gun. A 72 hour waiting period is a pause, a time period in which one can regain perspective and anger can cool. A study published in Proceedings from the National Academy of Sciences in 2017, found that "waiting periods that delay the purchase of firearms by a few days reduce gun homicides by roughly 17%". Thank you for listening to my testimony. I strongly urge you to vote "ought to pass" for LD 2238. Allowing guns to be readily available is irresponsible to both buyer and the public. It should not be easy to slide quickly from impulse to action when a possible result is a homicide, suicide or both.