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LD 2238

I write you as a Maine parent and educator to urge you to support LD2238, a life-saving bill that is shown to prevent suicide. By requiring a 72 hour waiting period, both emotional distress directed at self or others, can be waylaid and human death prevented.

Mental health crises often can be turned inward and lead to suicide. Momentary anger-infused homicides are also killing our neighbors. By requiring a 72 hour wait time after gun purchases, emotions may be diffused and harm diverted. Where 90% of gun deaths are suicides, at least 72% of Mainers want the legislature to act on this bill this year.

Our country has a gun violence epidemic and our beloved state is not immune. I know European friends who refuse to visit the United States because they are afraid of our gun violence. As an educator, I have witnessed the fear in the eyes of our children during active shooter drills. Maine has a poor record of legislation around guns. We desperately need to pass common sense gun safety laws to help people feel safe and protected while also respecting the long held hunting tradition in our state.

Thank you for supporting LD2238 and helping to make Maine a safer place for us all.