

I have worked with people as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in Maine for many years. It is common for some people to have times of being overwhelmed by various difficult experiences in their lives, some are personal crises within themselves and some are problems in their relationships with other people. These tough times can often give way to better times in their lives over time. But in the midst of a tough time, some people feel that their lives are not worth living or are too painful to endure, leading to suicide. In a conflict with another person, some people believe that harm to the other is the only remedy. At such times people's thinking and actions can be impulsive and life threatening. A gun can seem to offer a quick and permanent solution. A waiting period of 72 hours between an agreed upon purchase and sale and taking possession of a gun allows a cool down time - a time for a person's thinking to change. Maine has a high rate of deaths by guns. A waiting period saves lives.

The gun lobby and gun manufacturers object to waiting periods because they anticipate reduced gun sales. Fewer guns sales mean less money. Our choice is between saving lives and reduced gun sales and profits.

Please vote yes for LD 2238.