

Jeremy Cluchey
Bowdoinham
LD 2224

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In support of LD 2224, An Act to Strengthen Public Safety by Improving Maine's Firearm Laws and Mental Health System

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and esteemed members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Jeremy Cluchey. I am a resident and former selectperson in the Town of Bowdoinham, where I live with my wife and two children. I am also a gun owner and hunter.

I am testifying in support of LD 2224. I believe that this bill and others like it, if passed, will reduce the likelihood of another mass shooting, will reduce suicides, and will reduce the day-to-day gun violence that threatens our families and our communities.

In addition to the outlined provisions of LD 2224, I urge you to amend this bill to include a true extreme risk protection order. I know and appreciate the power of firearms, and when there is evidence that an individual poses a danger to themselves or others, it is essential that families and law enforcement have a direct and efficient means of temporarily removing their weapons. As we have seen with tragic results, Maine's current "yellow flag" law is cumbersome for law enforcement and inadequate to the task of protecting public safety. Many other states have seen the wisdom of a true red flag law, which strikes a balance between protecting individual rights and promoting public safety.

With respect to background checks, as the Governor said in her speech, it's just common sense to conduct these before someone is able to purchase a deadly weapon. Such measures do not threaten my rights as a hunter and gun owner, which is why responsible gun owners around the state are speaking up for reasonable public policies like these.

Thank you for your work on this important issue, and for considering amending LD 2224 and supporting its passage for a safer, freer state for all.