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I write to support this bill wholeheartedly. A waiting period probably would not have stopped Robert Card's murderous rampage, since he already had an arsenal of weapons. However, such a waiting period would make a huge difference to the increasing number of gun suicides in Maine. In 2021, 132 people shot themselves to death. 158 did the same thing in 2022. Surely many of those people had long had guns in their households, but some of them surely bought guns on an impulse and killed themselves. When suicide is immediately prevented, it is unlikely to happen later.

Maine needs a full suite of gun control legislation: universal background checks to diminish the number of firearms sold to people who should not have them, waiting periods to lessen impulse killings, red flag laws to streamline the process for safeguarding people in mental health crises from their own weapons, expanded mental health resources, and some reasonable limit on the kinds of weapons civilians can buy. Of all of these, the waiting period seems to me the least potentially controversial.

I urge the Judiciary committee to bring it to the full Legislature..