

Judith Feinstein
Hallowell
LD 2224

March 6, 2024

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Judith Feinstein. I live in Hallowell and I am a semi-retired public health professional. I write to express my support of LD 2224, LD 2238, and also all of the proposals you are considering this session that intend to increase gun safety measures and practices. Expanding the number of gun sales that take place with background checks and implementing waiting periods will encourage more responsible gun ownership in Maine and help to keep guns out of the hands of people who should not have them. These measures will also help to contain or reduce the number of guns that “go missing,” or end up being sold or transferred illegally.

Gun violence affected my extended family in July of 2023. My cousin’s daughter was driving with her family on a freeway in a bigger Western state when two vehicles sped by, shooting at each other. A bullet smashed a rear passenger window, hitting her 8-year-old son in the neck. He survived, but is paralyzed from the neck down, and has spent many of the months since in specialty hospitals in two other states. When the story made the news a few weeks later, the public safety commissioner was asked if the shooters had been found, and what could be done to prevent such incidents, of which there have been many, where other children were injured or killed. He answered that there were no leads, but the fundamental problem was – and still is – that there are just too many guns.

None of the proposed legislation here, in that other state, or nationally can prevent gun violence, and my cousin’s grandson will live a life that is immeasurably different than the one anyone expected. But, your actions in this Committee and in this Legislature can make a difference and will ultimately reduce the number of guns that end up where they should not be. That matters. Please support LD 2224 and 2238.