

Isadora Newman
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LD 2224

Good afternoon Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, Committee members, and staff. Thank you for hearing my testimony today.

My name is Isadora Newman.

I am a student at Bates College, in Lewiston Maine. On October 25th of my first semester at school, I was urged into lockdown due to a shooting occurring just a 3-minute drive from my dorm. 18 individuals were killed and 13 were non-fatally injured, rippling trauma and grief throughout the community. I have been lucky to live in great privilege throughout my life, and it shielded me to believe that I would never be at the forefront of such a horrific event. The shooting last October shook me - had I been 3-minutes away that night, who knows if I'd even be alive.

This experience, as deeply traumatic as it was, has solidified the fact that no one is safe without comprehensive gun safety. There is no effective protection for this issue beyond the law. This is why I am testifying for both LD 2224 and LD 2238. It is of paramount importance that Red Flag, Universal Background Checks, and a three day waiting period are implemented in Maine's gun purchasing process.

My experience in October leads me to emphasize these increased safety measures today. No one should have to go through the entirely avoidable, horrific anxiety, loss, and trauma that myself and my whole community went through this past fall.

I strongly encourage members of the committee to vote yes on LD 2224 and LD 2238.

This concludes my testimony. Thank you for listening to the voices of those directly affected by gun violence.