

Testimony in Support of LD 2224 *An Act to Strengthen Public Safety by Improving Maine's Firearm Laws and Mental Health System* and LD 2238 *An Act to Address Gun Violence in Maine by Requiring a Waiting Period for Certain Firearm Purchases*

To: Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and Members of the Judiciary Committee
From: Anne D. (Andy) Burt, 27 Bunchberry Lane, Edgecomb, ME 04556

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

My name is Andy Burt and I live in Edgecomb. I **am writing to testify in strong support of LD 2224 and LD 2238.**

I grew up in a hunting family where gun safety was emphasized to me starting at an early age. I also, like other young people, was trained how to safely use a gun. I am deeply concerned that we have become a nation focused on the right to own a gun without focusing on how to do so responsibly.

The legislation before you today (LD 2224 and LD 2238) to remove guns from individuals who may endanger themselves or others and get them the help they need, and to improve background checks with a 72-hour waiting period, would improve the safety and well-being for everyone in our communities. Sadly we have watched over and over the tragedy of preventable mass shootings, like the recent one in Lewiston, or suicides, when individuals at risk to society or themselves use guns to end lives and leave families and communities to grieve from the trauma. After the fact, we say we saw the signs the individual was troubled, but our laws have not had the teeth to take action.

In Maine and every state, we regulate who should be permitted to drive a vehicle, removing licenses for a period of time from those who have been convicted of driving recklessly, thus prioritizing the safety of the community over convenience to drive...for the safety of all, we should do likewise with guns. The right to bear arms comes with the expectation to do so responsibly.

Please vote to make our communities safer. **Vote unanimous OUGHT TO PASS on LD 2224 and 2238.**

Thank you for listening and for your service to our state.

Respectfully submitted

Anne D. (Andy) Burt
Edgecomb, Maine

Anne Burt
Edgecomb
LD 2224

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