

My name is Kylie Thibodeau, a resident of Raymond, Maine. I am a high school senior at Gray-New Gloucester High School and also a youth intern with the League of Women Voters of Maine. I am writing to express my support for LD 2238, an Act to Address Gun Violence in Maine by Requiring a Waiting Period for Certain Firearm Purchases.

I've grown up in a time and place where I have friends and family who own guns and enjoy being able to freely do things like go hunting. I've also grown up in a time and place where I've understood the absolute horror of gun violence—from Texas, to here in our home of Maine. I believe an answer lies in LD 2238.

For the sake of our freedom and safety, gun owners must be knowledgeable and responsible, and mentally unwell people should not have immediate access to guns. One of the ways we can do this is by instating a 72-hour waiting period. A waiting period would not only have positive effects on others who may have been put in danger but also on the person seeking to buy the gun—additional time to think is a gift that has the capacity to reduce firearm suicides and homicides.

As a student who has grown up alongside gun owners in an era of gun violence, I see the 72-hour waiting period as a necessary action to protect the lives of Mainers. I hope you will vote in support of LD 2238.

Thank you for your time and service.