

Amy Jane Larkin
Arundel

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and honorable members of the Judiciary Committee: my name is Amy Larkin, I am a resident of Arundel and I'm writing to you today in favor of LD 2238.

Last October, I was spending some time at the ceramics studio where I take classes in Biddeford when my husband who was supposed to be visiting a friend in Lewiston called me to tell me there had been a shooting. We were fortunate that he'd received a text from his friend waving him off as the situation unfolded. My fear and gratitude were overwhelming, and I can only begin to imagine the horror felt by those in Lewiston and our neighbors who experienced such loss.

After last year's tragedies, action must be taken. Mainers were shaken and devastated by the losses and we will forever be changed by the grief and impact to our communities. So much of what makes Maine the place I love to call home is our sense of community. Though many of us choose to live in the woods or miles from our neighbors, we know how to come together. We have an opportunity now to do just that by enacting legislation to prevent future tragedies and LD 2238 is an important step.

The suicide rate is high here in Maine¹ and one piece of addressing that is adding a waiting period to purchase guns. This policy can create a time buffer for a person in crisis that may be the difference between life and death. When someone attempts suicide using a firearm it is far more likely that attempt ends in death than when using other means.² I

I am just one of so many Mainers that support common sense gun safety laws.³ I believe most of us want to do what we can to protect our loved ones, our cities and towns and each other. This bill will make a difference and progress here is well within our reach. I urge you to vote in favor of LD 2238 for the safety of all Mainers. Thank you for your time and your work on this critically important issue.

¹ <https://www.pressherald.com/2022/06/08/gun-suicides-in-maine-far-outpace-u-s-rate/>

² <https://www.acpjournals.org/doi/10.7326/M19-1324>

³ <https://news.gallup.com/poll/220637/americans-widely-support-tighter-regulations-gun-sales.aspx>