

Dear Chair and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am for the proposed legislation LD 2224, Background Checks and a Real Extreme Risk Protection Order. As an educator and summer camp director in Maine, the safety of our camp community, as well as the safety of everyone in Maine, is my highest priority. Being at camp affords campers and staff the opportunity to slow down, breath more deeply and enjoy the woods of Maine. At the same time, they are able to escape the stress of school, home and the world. Now, more than ever, our youth need this opportunity and escape. The easy access to purchase guns in Maine threatens to end this opportunity for all of us.

This is why I support LD 2224. It is a unique and welcome approach to substantially expanding the number of gun sales that are performed with a background check while respecting, and even encouraging, the culture of responsible gun ownership in Maine. Requiring background checks for online gun sales, sales at gun shows, and other sales that are the result of advertising is a crucial step forward in keeping guns out of the hands of people who shouldn't have them, including domestic abusers, people convicted of other violent crimes, and others. While protecting responsible gun owners, this bill takes important steps towards holding reckless sellers accountable for selling dangerous weapons to people they don't know. Background checks are easy, convenient, and impose almost no burden on law-abiding gun purchasers.

Leaders in Maine must act to expand background checks and hold reckless sellers accountable to keep guns out of the hands of people who can't have them. This is a great first step to preserving safety from gun violence for everyone in Maine.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathy Jonas  
Maine Summer Camps Liaison