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LD 2224

I am writing in opposition of LD 2224. The restrictions placed on the private sale of firearms contained in this act would have done nothing to prevent the tragedy that occurred in Lewiston. The blame for the failure regarding the events in Lewiston and the subsequent manhunt falls squarely on the State and the Police who had ample warning of Robert Card's mental health issues and history of written, credible threats and did not act. Robert Card was involuntarily committed to a mental health institution which by current Federal Law removed his ability to legally purchase firearms. Robert Card made written and credible threats of violence, which were reported to the Police who then failed to initiate the Yellow Flag process despite all of the requirements to do so being met. In response to this failure of the state and of law enforcement, the state is now attempting to further limit the exercise of a constitutional right by introducing additional restrictions that objectively would not have prevented this tragedy, rather than hold itself accountable for its own failures in upholding the existing laws that would have. Expanding mental health services and funding is something that should be pursued, but wrapping that into an act that further infringes on the 2nd amendment rights of law abiding citizens is a non starter.