

David Hayward, Skowhegan Maine

Maine Judicial Committee

Dear Members of the Maine Judicial Committee,

I write with urgent concern to vehemently oppose the proposed mandatory 72-hour waiting period for firearm purchases in Maine. This proposal flagrantly disregards the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens and flies in the face of constitutional principles as affirmed by the Supreme Court's landmark ruling in *New York Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen*.

The Bruen decision, applying the text, history, and tradition test, resoundingly affirmed the individual's inherent right to keep and bear arms for self-defense. It laid bare the imperative that any regulation of firearms must adhere to the original intent of the Constitution, historical context, and traditional practices regarding firearms ownership.

A mandatory 72-hour waiting period not only fails to meet this rigorous standard but also represents a direct assault on our fundamental freedoms. Such a measure inflicts undue hardship on law-abiding citizens without any substantive evidence to suggest it will meaningfully reduce gun violence. In essence, it punishes responsible gun owners for the crimes of a few, ignoring the core principle that rights cannot be abridged without just cause.

Moreover, empirical data consistently demonstrates the inefficacy of waiting periods in curbing gun violence. Criminals, by their very nature, do not adhere to legal waiting periods; they obtain firearms through illicit means, rendering such restrictions futile and unfairly burdensome on lawful citizens.

Rather than pursuing misguided and draconian measures, the Maine Judicial Committee should prioritize evidence-based solutions that address the root causes of violence while safeguarding constitutional liberties. This entails bolstering mental health services, tackling socioeconomic disparities, and enhancing enforcement of existing laws to prevent firearms from falling into the wrong hands.

In light of these compelling arguments, I implore the Maine Judicial Committee to reject the proposed mandatory waiting period for firearm purchases. Upholding our constitutional rights and preserving individual freedoms must remain paramount, particularly in the face of ill-conceived legislative overreach.

Thank you for considering my impassioned opposition to this regressive proposal.

Sincerely,

David Hayward Jr.