

Ellen Klain
Falmouth
LD 2238

Ellen Klain Falmouth, Maine. I support LD 2238, which requires gun dealers to observe a 72 hour “cooling off” period between the purchase of a firearm and its delivery to the buyer. I support LD 2238 because I believe it will reduce the number of homicides and suicides by firearm in Maine.

Maine has the highest suicide rate in the country for youth between 10 and 25 years old. We also have a veteran suicide rate which is higher than the national average. States that have pre-purchase licensing, or post-purchase waiting period, laws have substantially lower firearm suicide rates than states without such laws.

In Maine, where no license is required to buy a firearm, this Bill’s post purchase waiting period provides a critical time buffer to give an impulsive, angry or suicidal buyer 3 days to cool down. Research shows us that the vast majority of people who survive a suicide attempt do not go on to die by suicide. Waiting periods are a critical tool to allow someone experiencing a crisis a second chance at life.

Last year, Maine committed to invest \$230 million to address statewide suicide prevention. Having a firearm waiting period of 72 hours will give a distressed gun buyer, or his or her loved ones, time to seek out State suicide prevention resources.

Please vote YES for LD 2238 and help fellow Mainers avoid becoming part of the grim statistics making our State a leader in youth and veteran suicides. Thank you.