

Sophie Warren P.O. Box 1 Scarborough, ME 04070 Phone: (207) 450-0765 Sophia.Warren@legislature.maine.gov House of Representatives 2 state house station Augusta, maine 04333-0002 (207) 287-1400 TTY: Maine Relay 711

March 7, 2024

Testimony of Rep. Sophie Warren in support of LD 2224, An Act to Strengthen Public Safety by Improving Maine's Firearm Laws and Mental Health System

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

Good afternoon, Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and respected colleagues of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary. My name is Sophie Warren, and I represent House District 124, which includes part of Scarborough, in the Maine House of Representatives.

I am testifying in support of LD 2224, with one caveat at the direction of and strong support of my community -- the inclusion of a so-called "Red-Flag" policy to enable in statute the desperately needed and evidence-based measure allowing law enforcement to temporarily remove a firearm from a person going through a mental health crisis under an extreme risk protection order to drastically reduce the possibility of a potentially deadly situation.

Work done by this Committee in 2019 by Representative Millett (2019 ME LD1312 <u>An</u> <u>Act Regarding Access to Firearms by Extremely Dangerous and Suicidal Individuals</u>) models a strategy this committee could adopt in this bill. I respectfully ask you to revisit this needed, worked through, and well-vetted proposal for your serious consideration as an amendment to this bill.

Thank you for your consideration of this measure as an amendment to LD 2224.