

Kerry Read
Paris
LD 2224

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary:

My name is Kerry Read. I am a resident of South Paris and am testifying in support of LD 2224.

Last week, I attended an evening event at Bates College in Lewiston. A group of us were walking through the quiet campus when we heard the distant sound of sirens. Then the sounds became closer and louder until the air was filled with the screams of police, fire, and ambulance vehicles. Someone said what was on all of our minds: “the shootings”. As our nerves jangled, our hearts went out to everyone suffering from this senseless and avoidable tragedy.

In addition to the Lewiston mass shooting, there are over 150 Mainers each and every year that end their own lives with guns and countless other acts of gun violence that take place in Maine.

LD 2224 is a reasonable and necessary tool for temporarily getting guns out of the hands of people who are a threat to themselves or others. This legislature must give our law enforcement personnel more tools to keep us safe and families more tools to get their loved ones help.

In addition, LD 2224 will close a dangerous gap in the current law, which allows people to buy guns without any confirmation that they are legally allowed to do so. Because of this loophole, people who are subject to domestic violence convictions or court orders, people who have been convicted of violent crimes, and people ineligible to possess firearms for mental health reasons can easily buy guns from unlicensed sellers with no background check in Maine.

To keep our communities safe, I urge you to vote, “Ought to Pass” on LD 2224