

Deborah Crump
Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Network
LD 2238
March 7, 2024

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

My name is Deborah Crump, I am a resident of West Paris, am an RN and am testifying in support of LD 2238 (An Act to Address Gun Violence in Maine by Requiring a Waiting Period for Certain Firearm Purchases).

I am testifying on behalf of the Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Network (MUUSAN). Our faith affirms the inherent worth and dignity of every person, calling us to respect ourselves and others, and to be voices for justice, equity and compassion, pointing us toward the larger community and a collective responsibility for one another.

The epidemic of gun violence means that too many children live in fear and it is too easy to gain access to guns making it too easy for someone to harm oneself or others. I became committed to advocating for gun safety two years ago when the 15 year-old daughter of a friend took her own life with a gun. My concerns have only increased since the mass shooting in Lewiston last October.

Requiring a waiting period between the time a person arranges to buy a gun and the time they gain possession allows a “cooling down” period for that person to possibly get help and to make better choices by staving off "heat-of-the-moment" actions. Studies show that suicide attempts are often impulsive, singular episodes that involve little planning. Waiting period laws are associated with reduced rates of firearm suicide by as much as 7–11% and homicides by roughly 17%.

Because Maine has no law requiring a waiting period and has the highest gun death rate in New England, I urge you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 2238.

Thank you for your time and your work in making Maine a safer place to live.
Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Crump