

## **Testimony in Support of LD 2224 and LD 2238**

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and Distinguished and Honorable members of the Joint Judiciary Committee:

My name is Eden Zumbrun and I am a sophomore at Bowdoin College. I am writing in support of LD 2224, An Act to Strengthen Public Safety by Improving Maine's Firearm Laws and Mental Health System, and LD 2238, An Act to Address Gun Violence in Maine by Requiring a Waiting Period for Certain Firearm Purchases.

I spent the majority of my years in school in China and it was not until I moved back to the United States for my sophomore year of high school that the issue of gun violence truly became salient. From lockdown drills and devastating headlines, this kind of violence became all too familiar to me and my peers.

Since coming to college in Maine, this concern has only become more concrete as we are forced to repeatedly reckon with events ranging from the numerous shootings on college campuses across the country to the tragedy in Lewiston last October.

October 25th began as a normal day where my biggest concern was a paper I had to write until a text about a lockdown at Bates College led to a night of panicked texting, frantic phone calls, and repeated refreshing of all the local and national news channels. Between concerned family members and our own concern for friends who were scattered around campus unable to safely return to their dorms, fear was rampant. We were all forced to turn in for the night without any certainty that we were safe and I distinctly remember falling asleep worrying about my own safety because I lived on the first floor, in a room with many windows.

These stories and thoughts are all too common for me and my peers. Even those of us who believed we would never be such a close witness to the effects of gun violence are forced to confront these hard truths time and time again, constantly thinking about how we would fight or flee when the situation inevitably arises.

There are plenty of experts that can use statistics to show the prevalence of gun violence and demonstrate this sentiment so I will not bother repeating them. I am here to say that with everything that goes on in every person's life each day, losing a loved one at the hands of gun violence should not be something we are forced to reckon with every day.

The road toward significantly reducing the risk of gun violence is a long one, but supporting LD 2224 and LD 2238 are steps in the right direction.

Sincerely,  
Eden Zumbrun