



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

(207) 287-1400

TTY: MAINE RELAY 711

Morgan Rielly

16 Blue Spruce Farm Road, Apt #6

Westbrook, ME 04092

Phone: (207) 228-5767

Morgan.Rielly@legislature.maine.gov

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Testimony of Rep. Morgan Rielly in support of
**LD 2237, An Act to Strengthen Public Safety, Health and Well-being by Expanding
Services and Coordinating Violence Prevention Resources**
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

Dear Senator Baldacci, Representative Meyer and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services:

My name is Morgan Rielly, and I represent House District 127, which includes part of my hometown of Westbrook. I am pleased to cosponsor and write in support of **LD 2237, An Act to Strengthen Public Safety, Health and Well-being by Expanding Services and Coordinating Violence Prevention Resources**.

This legislation offers a public health approach to dealing with our gun safety challenges. LD 2237 is focused on addressing gun violence at a population level that addresses both firearm access and the factors that contribute to and protect from gun violence by: increasing mobile health crisis units; enabling the mobile health crisis system to connect to 911 emergency dispatch; funding six new crisis receiving centers; establishing a Maine Office of Violence Prevention within DHHS; funding to reduce waiting lists and increase access to medication management service; providing retailers, instructors, and customers of all experience levels with firearm suicide prevention educational materials; and creating and implementing a statewide system to alert the public when there is an active shooter situation.

The recent horrific mass shooting in Lewiston is something that no community should ever again face in the future. We must act now to address our gun safety challenges however possible to ensure that we protect our friends, family and neighbors from enduring another painful loss such as this one.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this bill.