

To the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary
131st Maine State Legislature

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Tim Hughes MD, and I live in Belfast, Maine. I am writing to express my support for LD 2086, the so-called “Red Flag,” or ERPO law.

The advantages of this law are that it applies not only to a person who has a diagnosed “disease”, and the resultant requirement for a mental health evaluation as part of the process of weapon removal, but it also may be put into force by the petition of a family or household member, a law enforcement agency or a law enforcement officer, people who have direct knowledge of a person’s risk.

To focus on mental illness is unnecessary, stigmatizing and inaccurate, excluding people who are a threat but are not mentally ill, and excluding family members from the decision-making process. It also greatly simplifies the process of weapon removal.

Thank you,

Tim Hughes, MD

Tim Hughes
Belfast
LD 2283

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30 March 2024

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To focus on the diagnosis of a mental illness is unnecessary, stigmatizing and inaccurate, excluding people who are a threat but are not mentally ill, and excluding family members from the decision-making process. It also greatly simplifies the process of weapon removal from those at risk of killing themselves or others.

Thank you,
Tim Hughes, MD