

Kharma Amos  
Lisbon  
LD 2283

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Rev. Dr. Kharma Amos. I am a resident of Lisbon, I serve the Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick, and I am testifying in support of LD 2283 - An Act to Enact the Crisis Intervention Order Act.

Along with so many other Mainers, I want our state to respond to the crisis

As a minister, I am often in the position of having confidential information, including about gun ownership and mental health crises, about individuals for whom I am providing care. It can be agonizing for professionals like me to discern if/when the appropriate time is to share that information with law enforcement when we perceive dangers or risk factors. I am also in a position to provide guidance to families who may be concerned about a loved one. Maine's current law creates a complicated process, including taking the person into custody, which presents an obstacle to many families who might want to report concerns. The delays caused by a lack of expedited medical assessments while in custody also disincentivize potential reporters, or at least delay their reporting.

I would welcome clearer guidance and a workable process for sharing concerns when individuals or families I am working with are known to have access to firearms and be at risk of harming themselves or others. I believe LD 2283 provides essential and clear guidance that will increase the reporting of credible threats and save lives.

Please pass it.

Thank you.