

Michael Hall  
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Dear Members of the Legislative Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to our state's proposed Crisis Intervention Order Act. This legislation poses significant risks to our constitutional rights and due process.

First and foremost, this Act allows for confiscating firearms from individuals not convicted of any crime. This means that a person's Second Amendment rights can be stripped away based solely on allegations and without the opportunity to defend themselves in a court of law. This sets a dangerous precedent and undermines the fundamental principles of our justice system.

Moreover, the criteria for deeming someone a risk are vague and subjective. In particular, Section 4804, subsection 1, paragraph B, subparagraph 2 states that a significant danger may be shown by establishing that "by the respondent's threats or actions, the respondent has placed another person in reasonable fear of physical harm." This provision is far too subjective and could apply to anyone any time. The mere fact that an individual is frightened by another person's words or actions, however unreasonable that fear may be, could be used as grounds to confiscate their firearms. This leaves ample room for abuse, as disgruntled family members, neighbors, or acquaintances could potentially exploit these laws to harass or disarm law-abiding citizens.

It is important to note that Maine has a strong tradition of protecting the right to bear arms. Article I, Section 16 of the Maine Constitution states, "Every citizen has a right to keep and bear arms and this right shall never be questioned." This language provides an even stronger protection than the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Implementing the Crisis Intervention Order Act would directly violate the clear intent of our state's constitution to safeguard the rights of gun owners.

Additionally, I am concerned about the lack of mental health support in conjunction with this Act. Removing firearms does not address the underlying issues if someone is truly in crisis. We should be focusing on expanding access to mental health resources and support systems rather than simply taking away rights.

I urge you to consider the consequences and potential for abuse that come with the Crisis Intervention Order Act. We must find solutions to gun violence that do not infringe upon the constitutional rights of law-abiding citizens. I implore you to reject this proposed legislation and instead focus on measures that respect due process and address the root causes of violence in our society.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Michael Hall,  
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