

Testimony in Support of LD 2283

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

My name is Kim Anderson True. I'm from Freeport, and I am in support LD 2283, **An Act to Enact the Crisis Intervention Order Act to Protect the Safety of the Public**, to address harm caused by gun violence in Maine.

My husband and I raised two children in North Yarmouth during a less violent time than today. There were 19 school shootings nationally in 1989, the year our first child entered kindergarten.¹ Last year there were 346 school shootings, an increase of over 1822% from when my children entered public school.²

And, as we know, gun violence does not occur only on school property. There are over 117,000 shootings a year in the United States,³ resulting in more than 48,000 deaths,⁴ 2200 of them being deaths of children.⁵ Shockingly, in the United States of America, gun injury is now the leading cause of death among children under the age of 19.⁶

I am now a grandmother. I am stunned by how, in the years since I raised my own family, we have permitted gun violence to permeate our culture and impact our children's lives. We can – and we must – change the status quo to better protect the people of Maine. Maine's minimal gun safety laws are some of the weakest in the country,⁷ resulting in the highest rate of gun deaths in New England at 12.6 gun deaths per 100,000 population.⁸ In states where elected officials have taken action to pass gun safety laws, fewer people die by gun violence.⁹

I urge this committee to adopt an extreme risk protection order, a "red flag" law, as proposed in LD 2283. This bill that would allow judges to order the temporary removal of a person's access to guns when there is evidence that the person poses an immediate serious risk of harm to themselves or others. The bill also provides due process protections that meet the standards

¹ [K-12 School Shooting Database](#)

² Ibid.

³ Rapa, L., Katsiyannis, A., Scott, S. Durham, O., [School Shootings in the United States, Pediatrics, March 2024.](#)

⁴ Gramlich, J, [What the data says about gun deaths in the U.S., Pew Research Center, April 26, 2023.](#) Note: To put the number of gun-related deaths into context, in 2021, 46,980 people died in motor-vehicle crashes. [National Safety Council Injury Facts, 2021.](#)

⁵ Ramos, E., Murphy, J. 6 Charts that Show the Rise of Guns in the U.S. – and the People Dying from Them. NBC News, May 25, 2002.

⁶ Rapa, L., Katsiyannis, A., Scott, S. Durham, O., [School Shootings in the United States, Pediatrics, March 2024.](#)

⁷ [Everytown Gun Law Rankings, 2024.](#)

⁸ [Firearm Mortality by State, 2021, National Center for Health Statistics, CDC Control and Prevention.](#)

⁹ Massachusetts, which has far stricter gun safety laws than Maine, has the lowest rate of annual gun deaths in New England, at 3.4 deaths per 100,000 population Ibid.

set by the Supreme Court. Red flag laws have been adopted in 21 states, where they are effective in reducing gun violence.¹⁰

Please pass tougher gun safety laws, including LD 2283. Polls show that this is what the public wants.¹¹ We must bring down the number of people in Maine killed or injured by firearms.

Thank you.

Kim Anderson True
Freeport

¹⁰ [Extreme Risk Laws Save Lives, Everytown Research & Policy Fact Sheet](#), March 3, 2024.

¹¹ [Schaeffer, K., Key facts about Americans and guns. Pew Research Center, September 13, 2023.](#)