

June and Roy Smoot  
Kennebunk  
LD 2283

Dear Esteemed Judiciary Committee Members:

LD 2283 - An Act to Enact the Crisis Intervention Order Act to Protect the Safety of the Public, has been brought to you for your consideration and vote. In the strongest terms possible via written words, we plead with you to vote "Ought to Pass" and move this to our State Legislature for approval in both chambers.

Maine's current Yellow Flag Law is too complex, including steps which are obstacles to effectively removing guns from people who are a danger to themselves and Mainers for a variety of reasons - mental/emotional issues, domestic violence, extreme depression and more. LEO's in Maine support LD 2283 and fully admit their lack of training to evaluate a person's mental health. This act will allow families, who know their members best, to have guns removed from a dangerous relative or have them secured by police before they act on what may well be driving them to horrible violence, be it against others or themselves.

Suicides are 90% of guns deaths in Maine, and most times the suicide victim exhibits actions family members notice. Gun deaths of others by a shooter are often committed by someone who gives signals or even expressed plans to family members. LD 2283 will help save lives and get people into protection and services which will help them stop their plans to kill people.

At least 21 states have enacted similar laws with results which have saved people from being murdered or killing themselves.

As a family who has lost a brother to gun violence and another to suicide, we plead with you to vote "Ought to Pass" so Mainers have a greatly reduced chance of living with unmeasurable grief as we have.

Roy and June Smoot  
Kennebunk, Maine