

I am writing in favor of LD2283, An Act to Enact the Crisis Intervention Order Act to Protect the Safety of the Public.

I would like to bring to the committee's attention a paper from the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health entitled "Research on Extreme Risk Protection Orders An Evidence-Based Policy That Saves Lives"(<https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&opi=89978449&url=https://publichealth.jhu.edu/sites/default/files/2023-02/research-on-extreme-risk-protection-orders.pdf&ved=2ahUKEwjbpacy5qSFAXWWGVkFHcf8D3QQFnoECA4QAw&usg=AOvVaw0jrU-ku3jQ9rPWMSUFUEVd>)

This is a summary of research papers demonstrating the effectiveness of ERPOs in decreasing the risk of suicide and homicide by firearm as well as mass shootings. One point worth emphasizing is that ERPOs are complimentary to universal background checks which are important in preventing the acquisition of guns by individuals at risk, but do not address the risk posed by individuals who already are in possession of firearms. ERPOs address this latter risk.

I would also like to bring to the committee's attention a comprehensive paper that looked at the effectiveness of Connecticut's risk reduction law (which was the first risk reduction law in the nation): Jeffrey W. Swanson et al., Implementation and Effectiveness of Connecticut's Risk-Based Gun Removal Law: Does it Prevent Suicides?, 80 Law and Contemporary Problems 179-208 (2017) Available at: <http://scholarship.law.duke.edu/lcp/vol80/iss2/8>. These researchers found compelling evidence that suicide rate was indeed reduced by the ERPO law.

Lastly, I would like to bring to the committee's attention an article published in the Annals of Internal Medicine in 2019 that reviewed 21 interventions related to the risk of mass shootings. They found that there were no subsequent mass shootings in any of these cases and concluded that "individualized intervention can play a role in efforts to prevent mass shootings." (Extreme Risk Protection Orders Intended to Prevent Mass Shootings: A Case Series. Annals of Internal Medicine Volume 171, Number 9. <https://doi.org/10.7326/M19-2162>.) This last paper is particularly relevant to the recent mass shooting in Lewiston.

A robust extreme risk reduction order law is supported by the literature with evidence that the risk of suicides, homicides and mass shootings can all be decreased. It is a sensible addition to universal background checks, improved behavioral health access for individuals at risk and waiting periods for gun purchases. I strongly urge the legislature to enact LD 2283.

Thank you.

Marc Miller, M.D.

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Cumberland
LD 2283

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