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LD 2283

Hello Everyone,

I am writing as a concerned citizen and healthcare provider in Maine urging you to pass LD 2283.

As evidenced by the tragic Lewiston shootings, our laws are weak and have failed us. I am a nurse practitioner in private practice at Open Circle Health and many of my patients were impacted by the loss of life in Lewiston. They are first responders who are now traumatized, they are loved ones of the victims, they are coworkers of the victims, they are hopeless that things will never change and that politicians do not care or do enough. Their lives will never be the same and this violence could have been prevented with stronger laws. As a practitioner, I have been in a situation before where I have called both crisis and the police when I was concerned a patient of mine was becoming increasingly ill and erratic and had access to firearms and was threatening himself and others and - crisis would not go to his house, and when the police went he was not home- and, as far as I know, they never went again. It was a frightening situation and I believe his family was in great danger/as well as himself as he was a suicide risk. To this day, he still has his guns. Our systems are failing us. The number one killer of children is gun violence. This is insane and does not happen in other parts of the world. Personally, I have lost 3 people to gun violence. The first when I was 12. The next two when I was 20. These were defining moments in my life. Please help stop this senselessness.