

Victoria Libby
South Portland
LD 2283

Victoria Libby M.S.Ed., Psy.D.

Testimony in Support: LD 2283 An Act to Enact Crisis Intervention Order Act to
Protect the Safety of the Public

April 5th, 2024

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen and esteemed members of the Judiciary
Committee, my name is Victoria Libby. I live in South Portland, and I am a clinical
psychologist here in Maine.

As a mental health practitioner I have seen firsthand the impact of gun violence. The
trauma it inflicts is not just physical but psychological and these psychological
wounds are widespread and insidious. Basic gun safety regulation is a vital step in
preventative health care for our state.

I write to you today in support of LD 2283. This bill empowers family members and
law enforcement to petition the courts to temporarily
remove firearms from individuals who pose a risk of harming themselves or others
without the need for protective custody or a mental health determination which has
historically lead to longer periods before the gun can be removed which in turn
increases risk for suicide and homicide.

The intensity of the impulse to hurt oneself or others is often transient. For this reason
there is a critical window in which having access to a gun is particularly dangerous.
We need a fast process to temporarily remove a gun from someone who is struggling
with this intent. These orders have proven to be effective in preventing tragedies by
temporarily disarming
individuals in crisis.

Our yellow flag law requires a psychiatric evaluation before a judge can be asked to
put through a court order. This creates more red tape and more time in which a person
who is a risk to themselves or others can carry out a shooting. A study from UC Davis
showed that the red flag law (also known as Extreme Risk Protection Order) was
effectively used in 58 cases of
individuals threatening mass shootings in California in the last three years. Had an
extreme risk protection order like this one been in place in Maine, rather than our
yellow flag law, the police would have had the legal tools
they needed to remove Robert Card's weapons from his home.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Sincerely,

Victoria Libby M.S.Ed., Psy.D.