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Julie Keller Pease, MD; Topsham, Maine; April 5, 2024

Testimony regarding LD2283 “An Act to Enact the Crisis Intervention Order Act to Protect the Safety of the Public”

Senator Anne Carney, Representative Matt Moonen and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to submit my testimony in strong support of LD2283. I am a physician, and I have been licensed in the state of Maine since 1987. I am certified by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology. I have practiced in a variety of clinical settings in Maine, including hospitals, emergency departments, clinics and private practice.

In my experience, it is extremely difficult to separate people from their guns, even when there are significant concerns about suicide risk or the risk of violence against others. If enacted, LD2283 would allow a family or household member, or a law enforcement officer to step in and petition the court to TEMPORARILY prohibit a person “from purchasing, possessing or receiving a firearm or having or attempting to have custody or control of a firearm.”

In my opinion, LD2283 strikes an excellent balance, preserving the rights of gun owners while addressing public safety. It protects both individuals (in the instances of suicidal ideation and intent), and the public (in the cases of thoughts of violence toward others). It would have provided protection for both the public and the individual if this Act had been in place in the weeks and months before the October 25th shootings in Lewiston.

I previously expressed my concerns to my state legislators in the aftermath of the October 25th shootings, and I am extremely pleased that my own Senator Eloise Vitelli has co-sponsored this legislation.

In preparation for this testimony, I did an online search related to the question of the constitutionality of extreme risk protection orders, and I came across this excellent article in the Illinois Law Review in 2021. Here is a link for your reference:
<https://www.illinoislawreview.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/C.Johnson.pdf>

Once again, I thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony, and I appreciate your consideration.