

Anna McLean
Biddeford
LD 2283

Testimony of: Anna McLean, DO
To: Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary
Re: Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) and LD 2283
April 4, 2024

Dear distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee,

As a psychiatrist in training, I witness the negative impacts of firearm access regularly. It is unacceptable that firearm-related deaths continue to be the leading cause of death for American children. One third of such deaths are by suicide. As a provider that works with suicidal adults and youth regularly, I have limited ways to address firearm access during patient encounters. I spend a lot of time counseling about the risks of having firearms in the home for all patients, particularly those with children. In many cases, Maine families are unwilling to remove firearms from their home, even during acute mental health crises. The rates of suicidal ideation in young people are record high and suicide deaths by firearms will continue to rise without political intervention. 89% of firearm-related deaths in Maine are suicides; this is a public health emergency. Waiting periods to purchase firearms, mandatory background checks, and a risk protection order are critical. The evidence is clear that reducing someone's access to a firearm when they are acutely suicidal or homicidal can prevent injury or death by a firearm.

As a physician, I strongly urge you to support LD 2283 - An Act to Enact the Crisis Intervention Order Act to Protect the Safety of the Public.

Thank you for your time and attention to this incredibly urgent matter.

Thank you,
Anna McLean, DO
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