

I am in opposition to LD 2283, the Red Flag bill. The Lewiston shooting was already an illegal act and it has already been revealed that the ability to remove this man's firearms and have him examined by a mental health professional already existed. The law was not used by the police or armed forces in order to prevent this tragedy. The Army failed and Law Enforcement failed. We do not need a new or different law. Worse yet is the fact that this new proposal tramples our Federal and State Constitutions by allowing the seizure of property prior to a hearing or trial with the defendant present to defend themselves. We are still a country that assumes innocence until proven guilty in a court of law. Further the defendant will be allowed a hearing within 14 days after having his life disrupted and property seized. This is clearly a violation of a citizens rights to a speedy and fair trial on top of already having his property seized without a chance to defend himself. This proposal violates our principles and Constitution of the State of Maine, Article 1, Section 1, Section 5, Section 6, Section 6-A, Section 9, Section 16 (Right to Keep and Bear Arms), Section 20. It also violates the Federal Constitution, 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment, 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment, 5<sup>th</sup> Amendment and the 6<sup>th</sup> Amendment. It is clear this is not a bill that should become law.

Vote NO to LD 2283 and preserve our rights and constitutions.

William T. Valentine

Somerville, Maine

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