



## Testimony FOR LD 2283

### An Act to Enact the Crisis Intervention Order Act to Protect the Safety of the Public

Representative Matt Moonen, Chair  
Senator Anne Carney, Chair  
Distinguished Members of the Joint Standing Committee on the Judiciary

Date: April 4, 2024

Representative Moonen, Senator Carney and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Henry Skinner, MD and I am offer this testimony in vigorous support of LD 2283 as President of the Maine Association of Psychiatric Physicians. I serve as Medical Director for the Aroostook Mental Health Center and also practice child, adolescent and adult psychiatry downstate in Yarmouth.

Frankly, this is the bill that all healthcare providers in Maine have been advocating and waiting for since October 25, 2023. We feel deep appreciation to the sponsors for bringing it forward.

This bill permits families to initiate the extreme risk protection process directly. Family members are in the best position to know when someone is in an unsafe state of mind.

This bill simplifies the legal process for families, law enforcement and judicial officers. It offers more due process than the current statute.

The best thing about this law is that it will establish a more efficient method for PREVENTING SUICIDES. It bears re-emphasizing that 89% of gun deaths in Maine are suicides. This bill is a PRO-LIFE and PRO-FAMILY approach to suicide prevention.

A couple of months ago, one of my patients came to me in shock and grief. An abusive ex-boyfriend had called her and insisted that she come over to his house. She thought he sounded drunk and desperate. She texted his mother to check on him. She wasn't going to go see him because of his past severely abusive behavior. He called back an hour later and again asked her to come over. She again declined. She then heard him shoot and kill himself while on the phone with her. This man wasn't mentally ill – he was intoxicated and upset. It should never have ended this way.

Three Mainers die by gun suicide every week. Please help put a stop to it. I urge all of you to vote "ought to pass" on LD 2283.