

Mary Ellen Quinn  
Pax Christi Maine  
LD 2283

Hearing Date – April 5, 2024

LD 2283 – “An Act to Enact the Crisis Intervention Order Act to Protect the Safety of the Public”

Testimony by Mary Ellen Quinn and Denise Dreher on behalf of Pax Christi Maine  
Dear Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross and Members of the Judiciary Committee,  
We are writing to you today on behalf of Pax Christi Maine, the Catholic Peace and Justice Movement, a statewide organization aligned with national Pax Christi USA and Pax Christi International.

Pax Christi members in Maine and across the globe are people of faith, committed to Gospel Nonviolence and the principles of Catholic Social Teaching. We work in our communities to build a culture of peace, justice, compassion and reconciliation. Our members have grave concerns about gun violence in Maine. Reasonable gun safety laws are warranted to protect the people of Maine. The Lewiston mass shooting was a tragedy that should never be repeated. The death of 18 people, the wounding of 13 others and the resultant psychological trauma suffered by witnesses, family members and friends present lawmakers with an opportunity to institute laws that could prevent gun violence.

As law enforcement professionals have testified time and again, the current yellow flag law in Maine is grossly inadequate, as it is only effective when the person of concern is cooperative and willing to give up their weapons. Objective self-assessment is not common when a person is de-stabilized.

Family members are often the first to recognize when household members are experiencing mental and emotional instability, posing a significant danger of harming themselves or others. A comprehensive red flag law allows family members, household members or police to petition the court directly to remove weapons from a dangerous person in a timely manner.

We urge you to vote to pass LD 2283.

Thank you,

Mary Ellen Quinn, Winterport  
Denise Dreher, Biddeford  
Pax Christi Maine, Co-Coordinator