



Supportive Testimony:

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

Good morning Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary. My name is Kimberly Caldwell, I am a practicing PA in Lewiston, an Auburn resident and the President of the Maine Association of PAs (MEAPA) on whose behalf I am testifying. We are testifying in support of LD 2283 “An Act to Enact the Crisis Intervention Order Act to Protect the Safety of the Public”, because it fills a large gap in our public policies regarding the safe and responsible use of firearms.

MEAPA represents over 1,000 PAs practicing in Maine and the patients we care for. MEAPA has prioritized gun safety and expansion of access to mental healthcare in the wake of nationwide trends and shock of October’s shooting in Lewiston.

I have been practicing as a PA for 17 years in Maine with the majority of my practice in trauma surgery. Unfortunately, I have witnessed the devastating injuries of gun violence where patients are left permanently injured or dead. I have had to tell parents, spouses and children that their loved one is deceased or forever maimed. Their devastation and agonizing pain cannot be understated; a mothers wail at the loss of a child is universal and forever scarring.

This bill provides law enforcement the tools they need to act when families sound the alarm. Our current minimally restrictive gun laws and policies coupled with an under-staffed and under-funded mental health system have resulted in a perfect storm of senseless and unnecessary violence in our state and country. Homicidal or suicidal intentions are sometimes exhibited by those struggling with mental health or those who have sustained brain injuries. LD 2283 separates those potentially dangerous individuals from their firearms, with pathways to return them if and when it is appropriate to do so. For these reasons Maine PAs encourage you to vote “Ought to Pass” On LD 2283.

Thank you for your consideration and your work on this important issue. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Kimberly M. Caldwell MPAS, PA-C
President of the Maine Association of PAs