

Kathy Strand
Portland
LD 2283

I am Kathy Strand, a resident and voter in Portland, Maine and I am writing to urge you to vote “ought to pass” when considering LD 2285 which would give Maine families and law enforcement officers the ability to petition courts directly to temporarily remove firearms from individuals posing a risk of harming themselves or others.

LD2285 is an act to protect the safety of the public and reflects an evidence-based rationale that allows for a true extreme risk protection order. We will never know for sure if having a true ERPO in place last fall would have prevented the horrific tragedy in Lewiston. Just like I will never know that the suicide by firearm of an acquaintance who worked in the same office as me could have been 100% prevented had their family or loved ones had the means of a true ERPO. But LD2285 isn't about achieving 100% prevention because we all know that real life doesn't work that way. What works is closing gaps in safety whenever and however possible –not that we can realistically achieve 100% prevention of gun violence-but that we can ensure Maine families and law enforcement have a more effective means to keeping us all safe.