

April 3, 2024

Dear Speaker Talbot Ross, Senator Vitelli, and members of the Committee on Judiciary,

I am a primary care nurse practitioner working with adult and adolescent patient populations in a community based FQHC in rural Penobscot County. As a concerned primary care provider and active member of the Maine Nurse Practitioner Association (MNPA) I am writing in support of **LD 2283 An Act to Enact the Crisis Intervention Order Act to Protect the Safety of the Public.** I stand with other medical, professional, and advocacy organizations in support of this bill.

Today I also testify as a suicide survivor having lost my brother, Mark O'Keefe, to suicide by a self-inflicted gunshot injury in 1984. He was 19 years old. There will never be enough time to process such a tragic and violent event and the effect his death has had on his family and friends.

- Maine has the highest gun death rate in New England; most of these deaths are suicides.
- Approximately 41,000 deaths nationwide are attributed to gun violence.
- Gun violence is a leading cause of death of American children.

LD 2283 will enact an Extreme Risk Protection Order and will save lives. By allowing the temporary removal of and access to firearms for people who are a danger to themselves or others, we can reduce deaths by gun violence. Family members can start the process before a violent act occurs by petitioning the court directly to remove firearms from an individual at risk.

I am available to answer any questions or provide additional information.

Respectfully submitted,

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