

William McMurray  
Portland  
LD 2283

My name is Bill McMurray and I am a resident and voter in Portland, Maine. I am writing now to urge you strongly 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.

LD2283 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 (ERPO). While we cannot know if having a true ERPO in place last fall would have prevented the horrific tragedy in Lewiston, the post-shooting investigation and comments from the shooter’s family and reserve associates indicate that it could very well have. That said, LD2285 isn’t about achieving 100% prevention. Real life is too unpredictable for that. What does work is closing any gaps in safety whenever and however possible.

We may never realistically achieve 100% prevention of gun violence, but by investing the decision to remove a firearm in those who know an individual best, we can ensure that Maine families and law enforcement officers have a more effective means of keeping us all safe without the need for the time and effort of a psychological evaluation in advance.

Supporting and passing LD2283 is the prudent and right thing to do.

Respectfully submitted,

William McMurray  
Portland, Maine