

Mary Edwards  
Auburn  
LD 2283

Speaker Talbot Ross, Senator Vitelli, Representatives Cloutier, Terry, and Daughtry, and members of the Maine Judiciary Committee, my name is Mary Edwards, and I live in Auburn, Maine. Thank you for the opportunity to address this committee.

I oppose LD 2283. This proposed Red Flag law would strip Maine citizens of their Second Amendment rights without due process, based on hearsay and weak standards.

Maine already has a Yellow Flag law in place, allowing for police officers to issue a request for a judge to order someone to temporarily give up their firearms and prohibit them from acquiring new ones. This request also requires a medical assessment to be done first. In other words, Maine's Yellow Flag law is not based simply on a complaint, be it true or false, petitioned against the respondent, as this new Red Flag law would allow. But rather, the current Yellow Flag law is based on the individual's actions actually being observed by the police officers and medical professionals.

My heart goes out to the victims and their families of the recent Lewiston shooting. However, Robert Card had previously been observed by law enforcers to be a threat to himself and others, and if Maine's Yellow Flag law had been enforced, that tragedy could have been avoided.

LD 2283 would expand Maine's adequate Yellow Flag law to an extreme Red Flag law, stripping Maine's citizens of their Second Amendment rights without due process. I respectfully urge you to vote Ought Not to Pass.