

Annika Moltz
Portland
LD 2283

Representative Matt Moonen
Senator Anne Carney
Distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on the Judiciary

April 5, 2024

Representative Moonen, Senator Carney and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Annika Moltz, RN, BSN, and I am a resident of Portland. I have worked as a registered nurse at Maine Medical Center for nine years, and previously as an RN and as a social work case manager at several institutions in other states. I offer testimony today in vigorous SUPPORT of LD 2282.

As a nurse, I see the medical histories of dozens of patients each month, and mental health diagnoses are among the most common diagnoses I see. People with histories of generalized anxiety disorder, major depressive disorder, and bipolar disorder are incredibly common, and the enormous majority of those people have no history of violence, towards themselves or others. This stands to reason, as mental illness is a poor predictor of violence, and particularly of gun violence. With a true extreme risk protection order in place, like LD 2282, the people of Maine would not have to rely on a largely irrelevant diagnosis of mental illness in order to act to keep their family and community members safe from gun violence.

As a registered nurse and a very concerned member of this community, I urge you to vote "ought to pass" on LD 2282.

Sincerely,

Annika Moltz, RN, BSN
Portland, Maine