

April 5, 2024

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary:

My name is Deborah Crump, I am a resident of West Paris and am submitting testimony in support LD.2283 - *An Act to Enact the Crisis Intervention Order Act to Protect the Safety of the Public*

This true Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) legislation came about as a result of the many hours of testimony presented earlier this year before your committee in support of several gun safety bills. Law enforcement officials and mental health professionals stated clearly that Maine needs more tools to keep the public safe. While it is gratifying to hear how often the yellow flag law has been used since the October mass shooting in Lewiston, ERPOs simplify the process. The focus is on behaviors, not mental illness diagnosis; studies show most acts of gun violence are perpetrated by people who do not have a diagnosed mental illness. It also allows families, who are likely to be the first to notice concerning behaviors, to start the process of having guns temporarily removed from their loved-ones' possession. A research study conducted at John Hopkins School of Public Health, published last year, found that many ERPOs issued were for people who threatened self-harm or suicide; and 10% were issued for threats of mass violence. Even if only a fraction of these threats had been carried out, it is clear ERPOs save lives.

After hearing from state and national leaders who have studied the impact of ERPO legislation in other states, I believe this law is an important public safety measure. Please vote Ought to Pass on LD 2283.

Thank you for your work on behalf of the people of Maine.

Deborah Crump
West Paris
LD 2283

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