

**Testimony of Andrea Mancuso  
Neither for Nor Against LD 2283  
“An Act to Enact the Crisis Intervention Order Act to Protect the Safety of the Public”  
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary  
Friday, April 5, 2024**

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, I write on behalf of the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence (MCEDV)<sup>1</sup> and our member programs Neither for Nor Against LD 2283, “An Act to Enact the Crisis Intervention Order to Protect the Safety of the Public.”

MCEDV supports the idea that the State should move forward with a Crisis Intervention Order process that allows family and household members to seek a firearms relinquishment order when a loved one is in crisis or has engaged in behaviors indicating they pose an imminent safety risk. Such a process would cover those circumstances in which a protection from abuse order has not been obtained, or may not be appropriate or possible, and a particular person’s access to a gun needs to be reviewed to address important safety concerns, including the preservation of life.

However, upon review of the proposal in front of you, we have concerns with the language in a significant number of places in the bill, some of which concern policy choices and others involve technical process issues where we think it would make more sense to align such a process with language already existing in the protection from abuse statute in order to avoid creating inefficient and inconsistent processes, as well as to avoid confusion and administrative burden within clerks offices statewide.

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<sup>1</sup> MCEDV serves a membership that includes Maine’s eight regional domestic violence resource centers (DVRs) across the state, as two culturally specific service providers. Last year, these programs together served more than 12,000 Maine survivors of domestic abuse and violence and their children.

We hope that Maine will soon thoughtfully move forward a Crisis Intervention Order process. However, we are concerned there remains insufficient time left in the 131<sup>st</sup> Legislature to do the work that would be required to accomplish that. If the legislature were to determine that it would be appropriate to convene a working group to further discuss a Crisis Intervention Order process and make recommendations, we believe our network's experience with Maine's protection from abuse order process over the last four decades, a process which can and does lead to a temporary prohibition on firearms possession and a court order requiring relinquishment in most cases,<sup>2</sup> could be very valuable to such a discussion.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our perspective. Please do not hesitate to let me know if we can be of assistance as you continue to discuss this proposal.

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<sup>2</sup> From May 1, 2022 through October 20, 2023, 4,465 temporary protection from abuse orders were issued by Maine's District Courts statewide that included a temporary firearms prohibition and relinquishment order.