Mary Ann Larson Bangor LD 2283

Maine needs to join with the 21 other states who have Extreme Risk Protection Orders in place to facilitate promptly removing firearms from someone threatening harm to themselves or others. Those intending harm often voice their intentions, and families are often the ones with first hand knowledge of these intentions. We need to empower family members to act in the best interest of all involved and petition the courts for temporary removal of firearms. Law enforcement also needs a streamlined process for extinguishing a volatile situation. Due process is NOT an issue, as the person is given the opportunity to present their "defense". Since most firearm deaths in Maine are suicide, this ERPO is critically important to intervening in these situations. It's highly likely that the Lewiston massacre wouldn't have happened if Maine had an ERPO in place last October, as Robert Card's family would have been empowered to act. Please pass this commonsense measure that is working in 21 states all over the country. Let Maine take its place alongside other states with sensible gun laws. Help us be proud of Maine again for doing what's right.