

April 4, 2024

RE: Testimony in support of LD 2283

Honorable members of the Committee on Judiciary:

My name is David Bilski, and I live in New Harbor, Maine. I wish to submit this written testimony in support of LD 2283 because it represents reasonable steps to increase gun safety here in Maine. We all know that Maine is far behind other states in what steps have been taken to increase gun safety, and we need to step-up now and improve our laws. This bill (LD 2283) represents one such improvement over our current situation, particularly Maine's so-called yellow flag law. The yellow flag law's wording creates burdensome hurdles which significantly diminish the ability of an extreme risk protection order (ERPO) to save lives, especially when time is of the essence. Streamlining the process to obtain a true ERPO as quickly as possible while keeping in place the reasonable protection of petitioning a court will contribute considerably to Maine's gun safety situation. What happened in Lewiston should be more proof than anyone should want in order to demonstrate the need for upgrading our gun safety laws, including the change from a "yellow flag law" to a true red flag law (ERPO). Many states have already passed these safety laws, so Maine has forfeited its aspiration to lead ("Dirigo"); but we can at least follow with renewed efforts and show that we care about the safety of our communities. I urge you to please support LD 2283. Thank you very much.

David Bilski
New Harbor, ME