

Carol Gillespie  
West Bath  
LD 2283

April 4, 2024

Re: Testimony for LD2283

To the Judiciary Committee and members of the Legislature:

My name is Carol Gillespie, a citizen of West Bath, Maine. I am writing in support of LD2283.

I have been in support of Gun Safety Legislation since December 14, 2012 when 20 innocent first graders and 6 adult staff members were shot at Sandy Hook Elementary School with an AR-15 style rifle. I attended this Sandy Hook school from Kindergarten through 4th grade in the 1960's. I can still picture where the gunman entered the school and where he violently took so many precious lives. I really thought that when so many young children were killed by a troubled young man with a semi-automatic weapon that national laws would be changed. Unfortunately, I was wrong and many more innocent victims have been killed by people in crisis that had access to deadly weapons.

Gun violence and suicides are preventable. Gun deaths in states with stronger gun laws are less than in those with weaker laws. 89% of Maine gun deaths are suicides. Hopefully some of them can be prevented with a true Extreme Risk Protection Order.

LD2283 is a common sense law that will begin to reduce gun deaths without infringing upon the rights of responsible gun owners. It provides a pathway for families to intervene when they think someone they love is a danger to themselves or others without having to take them into custody or requiring a mental health evaluation.

Maine desperately needs this law. Please do the right thing and pass LD2283.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Gillespie