

Bruce Moore
Cape Elizabeth
LD 2283

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Moonen and members of the Judiciary Committee.

I urge your support for LD 2283, The Crisis Intervention Order Act, a true extreme risk protection order. My best friend from college days took his own life with a firearm. He was a highly-skilled and well-educated man who over time developed a substance use disorder and mental health issues. He had periods of sobriety but also periods when he succumbed to substance misuse, was arrested on various charges and jailed numerous times.

He was a gun owner all his adult life. I was fearful he would harm himself because he was depressed and threatened suicide, loaded gun in hand, on multiple occasions. I was also afraid he would unintentionally harm other people when he was in pain, desperate and out of control. An extreme risk protection order may have helped save his life.

Eighty nine percent of all gun deaths in Maine are suicides and the rate of gun suicide has increased 45% from 2012 to 2021 compared to a 19% increase nationwide. I urge your support of LD 2283, The Crisis Intervention Order Act. It will save the lives of Maine people, prevent suicides and other tragedies.