

Brian Hackett
Newburgh
LD 2283

I urge this committee to vote "ought not to pass" on LD 2283 - "An Act to Enact the Crisis Intervention Order Act to Protect the Safety of the Public".

My reasoning for my opinion on this aside, I must say that I find it abhorrent to move forward with holding this meeting on proposed legislation that would directly impact the rights of Mainers at a time when hundreds of thousands of households are still without power following Thursdays nor'easter. It must be known that such an event would limit the number of people able to attend and/or testify either in support or opposition of this legislation.

Article I, § 16 of the Maine Constitution provides: "Every citizen has a right to keep and bear arms and this right shall never be questioned."

This proposed law is a very blatant and obvious questioning of the "right to keep and bear arms", without due process at that.

The current "yellow flag law" we have in place is more than sufficient to address public safety concerns, if only it would be properly enforced. It is telling that in less than two months following the Lewiston shooting the yellow flag law was enforced more than the entire timeframe from July 2020 through the end of 2022. See <https://abcnews.go.com/US/maines-yellow-flag-law-spikes-after-lewiston-mass/story?id=105226610>.

To deprive anyone of any constitutional right for any length of time the government and/or law enforcement should be required to observe due process in doing so, and to meet a high bar in reaching such a determination. It should be time consuming. It should be inconvenient. It should not be easy.

In addition, I see no reason that any excuse to deprive anyone of their right to bear arms without due process couldn't in turn be used to deprive them of any other right. At a time when even speech that is critical of government is deemed to be dangerous, the precedent that would be set is in itself dangerous.

Again, I oppose LD 2283 "An Act to Enact the Crisis Intervention Order Act to Protect the Safety of the Public", and it "ought not to pass".