

Kathleen McFadden
Maine chapter of Moms Demand Action for gun sense in AmericaAct
LD 2283

Dear Chairs and Esteemed members of the Judiciary Committee.

I am submitting this testimony on behalf of the hundreds of volunteers across Maine with Moms Demand Action, who have been advocating for crisis intervention orders since the beginning of this legislative session. Research proves that these types of orders can save lives and have saved lives in countless states across the country. We are in strong support of LD2283.

Maine continues to see high, and increasing, firearm suicide rates, and has seen an increase in the overall rate of gun deaths between 2012 and 2021. In 2023 alone, Maine saw two devastating and preventable mass shootings in Lewiston and Bowdoin. These tragedies are unfortunately painful reminders of what happens when we don't have common-sense gun safety laws in place like a red flag law that can keep guns out of the hands of individuals in crisis or those who pose a threat to themselves and others.

We must remove roadblocks from crisis intervention practices so that they can more be quickly, efficiently, and effectively be deployed. One critical way we can do this is by enacting a real red flag law. Red flag laws enable family members and law enforcement officers to seek court orders that block a person in crisis from having or getting guns as soon as they see warning signs that a person poses a threat of harming themselves or others.

We urge the committee to vote ought to pass.

Sincerely,
Kathleen McFadden
Maine Chapter Moms Demand Action