



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Testimony of Rep. Kristen Cloutier in support of
**LD 2283, An Act to Enact the Crisis Intervention Order Act to Protect the Safety of
the Public**

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Moonen and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary. My name is Kristen Cloutier, and I represent House District 94, part of my hometown of Lewiston. I am writing to you today as a cosponsor of **LD 2283, An Act to Enact the Crisis Intervention Order Act to Protect the Safety of the Public**.

The October mass shooting in Lewiston that took the lives of 18 people and injured 13 others was both horrific and senseless. Tragically, it was also preventable.

In March, an interim report from the independent commission investigating the tragedy found that law enforcement could have done more to utilize current Maine law to remove Robert Card's weapons and place him in protective custody. But while our current law could have been invoked earlier in this case, the Legislature also has the responsibility to take comprehensive, proactive steps to strengthen our laws to provide better protections against the next tragedy, which might not unfold in exactly the same way.

This legislation to enact the Crisis Intervention Order Act would add a critical, additional layer of protection to help prevent people from accessing guns when they pose a danger to themselves or others. It would allow loved ones to directly petition a court for a crisis intervention order to temporarily remove firearms from a person in crisis. Often, family members and friends are the first to notice the warning signs before a mass shooting occurs – and this measure would help allow for quick intervention, possibly saving innocent lives.

If this legislation had been law last October, the tragedy that shattered the lives of so many Mainers might have been avoided. But while we cannot go back and alter the past, we can look forward to the future and take meaningful steps to better prevent the next tragedy, so another Maine community does not have to endure the pain, trauma and grieving that my hometown has suffered. LD 2283 will make our state safer and help accomplish that.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kristen Cloutier