

Destiny Johnson  
Windham  
LD 2283

Good afternoon members of the Judiciary committee.

My name is Destiny Johnson. I was at Schemengee's Bar and Grille on October 25, 2023.

After being shot at, I crawled through chairs and then through the kitchen to escape that night.

I'm in opposition to LD2283.

We already had a system in place to arrest Robert Card before the shooting in Lewiston. The system was not used. The yellow flag law (that they promised would save lives) was also not used. What's the sense of the State of Maine having the yellow flag law, when they never enforced to begin with?

Unfortunately, the system and policy's here in Maine failed all of us. The policy's put in place now, are not allowing us Mainers to be able to defend ourselves by stepping into a gun free zone like Schemengee's.

94% of mass public shootings are in gun free zones.

Asking us to be defenseless for your perceived safety clearly leaves all of us in danger. What happened to us in Lewiston will happen again here in Maine.

We need to realize Robert Card already had these weapons. The U.S. Army deemed him to be such a risk that it forbade him from having weapons, handling ammunition, or participating in shooting drills while on military duty.

But the Army's safeguards did not carry over to the civilian world as the military was not required to invoke state laws that exist to protect the public.

What's more, people knew about Card's erratic behavior and Card continued to own guns — despite his delusions, paranoia and threats against other people and an Army Reserve facility in Saco — in the months before the mass shooting.

On May 3, 2023, a Citizen Assist complaint originating from a local public school address was logged with the Sagadahoc County Sheriff's Office.

In July 2023, Card was admitted to a mental health facility in New York and spent 14 days in that hospital. It is well-documented that Card acted violently and even assaulted a fellow soldier.

In September 2023, weeks before the shooting, police received a request from the Maine National Guard to do a welfare check on Robert Card.

The reality of this tragedy is that there were signs for a year leading up to the shooting that Card was violent. He made threats and acted violently. Prior to the shooting, Card allegedly committed several serious crimes but he was not charged. Why not? Repeatedly, Card showed serious signs of danger, and his behavior was largely ignored.

Again, We already had a system in place to arrest Robert Card before the shooting in Lewiston. The system - Maine's yellow flag law, was not used.

Please vote ought not to pass LD2283.