

John Devin
Dixmont
LD 2283

I am writing to provide comments regarding An Act to Enact the Crisis Intervention Order Act to Protect the Safety of the Public (proposed Red Flag Law). While deranged individuals with firearms can inflict severe harm resulting in the death of targeted or random persons, there are innumerable other ways to cause similar harm. I will not go into those ways here, but will advise that the list is long and preventing those things would be nearly impossible if someone is bent on doing harm to others. It is clear the second amendment of the US Constitution provides for and guarantees the right to keep and bear arms for its citizens. This right is not only to allow folks to protect themselves, their families, and defend their property. The founding fathers knew based upon their experience that this right was also to protect them from government gone afoul. Red Flag Laws on the surface would just remove that right from individuals deemed to be a danger to themselves or others. However, the gravest danger regarding these measures concerns who makes that determination? Is it an enemy with a greatly embellished story? A political rival? History has shown that many devious governments disarmed their citizenry before implementing increasingly more severe oppression. Can't happen here you say. Don't bet on it. Our state and our nation is in the midst of a mental health crisis. If we truly want to prevent tragedy from happening, we need to tackle this problem. We also need to turn to Almighty God for His help. Operating with broken "moral compasses" simply won't work...

John Devin
Dixmont, Maine