



Maine Education Association
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**Testimony in support of
LD 2283 "An Act to Enact the Crisis Intervention Order Act to Protect the Safety of the Public"
Grace Leavitt, President, Maine Education Association
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary
April 5, 2024**

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Grace Leavitt. I am a Spanish teacher, on leave, serving as President of the Maine Education Association. The MEA represents nearly 24,000 educators in our Maine system of public education, in pre-K-12 schools as well as in our institutions of higher education, and both retired and aspiring educators.

I am submitting this testimony in support of LD 2283, “An Act to Enact the Crisis Intervention Order Act to Protect the Safety of the Public”.

As I have stated in previous testimony in support of other proposed legislation to promote gun safety laws in our state, the concern for potential gun violence is, at best, nearly always at the back of the minds of our educators. At worst, following news of yet another mass shooting, whether here or elsewhere, that concern is hard to push to the back of their minds. And if a student has been impacted by gun violence—whether as someone who witnessed a tragedy, or as a victim, or, the worst of all, had taken their own life—it is hard for an educator to ever put the concern aside. The concern of course is for the student first and foremost, but then also for all students, and for all educators, as well as for our communities.

Twenty-one states along with Washington, D.C., have now enacted laws such as what is proposed in LD 2283. There is evidence that such laws have indeed both reduced the risk of suicides as well as have prevented incidents of mass shootings.¹

Our students, our educators, and our communities deserve to be as safe as possible, and our legislators have the ability to enact measures that will do much to provide what is needed to make that happen.

MEA urges you to pass LD 2283. It is yet one more measure that will help prevent the likelihood of needless, senseless, tragic loss of life.

Thank you for your work and service to the people of Maine.

¹<https://everytownresearch.org/report/extreme-risk-laws-save-lives/>