

Cheryl (Holly) Travers
Westbrook
LD 2283

I am submitting testimony in support of LD 2283 (Extreme Risk Protection Order). My name is Holly Travers and I live in Westbrook, Maine.

21 states have ERPO laws. Research demonstrates that they make a difference in preventing suicide. Connecticut saw a 14% decrease in the firearm suicide rate and Indiana saw a 7.5% reduction after implementing ERPO laws. In a review of 6 states, 10% of ERPO petitions concerned threats against at least three persons. In these mass shooting threats, the most common type was directed at K-12 schools. Everytown Research & Policy reports that "these laws are most effective when they are thoughtfully drafted and implemented and where there is widespread awareness of their existence." I have included information of implementation of ERPO laws from their site at this link: <https://everytownresearch.org/report/extreme-risk-laws-guide/> ERPO laws have due process protections. Only specific groups of people can request an ERPO and they must present clear evidence to a judge that someone poses an immediate risk. Many states include penalties if false evidence is presented. Mental health service providers can be engaged in the process.

I am reminded that in hospital emergency rooms, there is a saying that, "time is life". Surely that applies here as well. We need a process that is straightforward when a situation warrants the removal of a firearm from someone who poses a risk to themselves or the community. I strongly urge you to vote 'Ought to Pass' on LD 2283 and I thank you for your work on the judiciary committee.