Joseph Cavo Benton LD 2283 Dear Honorable Legislators:

Sadly, I find myself writing you with regards to the proposed last minute "Red Flag" bill that you are currently holding public hearings on. I'm sorry, but due to health conditions I am unable to attend public hearings at this time. Please don't mistake my lack of attendance in person as a lack of passion on this issue. I am and will remain OPPOSED to the passage of any red flag laws here in Maine. Taking a citizens constitutional rights away with out due process is wrong and a crime against our constitutional rights as Americans. This is Maine USA, not Russia or 1938 Germany.

Once again, you/we have an adequate yellow flag law in place which normally would have sufficed in Lewiston had someone/anyone done their job as we hopefully trust them to do.

You all should be working on much bigger issues. Drugs, homelessness, crime, are all out of control here in the Pine State, and yet, just like the mess in Washington DC, most of you are fixated on the low hanging fruit instead of really seriously addressing issues that so many of us face everyday. (Please see news article attached below)

The Lewiston shooter was ill, he confessed he was ill, family, coworkers, guardsmen, and public safety all knew he was ill. We're all taught "if we see something, we should say something. People did say something! Sadly, nothing was done to prevent this awful loss of life. If the yellow flag law didn't stop him, how can you logically reason that a red flag law would have produced a different outcome???

Please, please, stop punishing the innocent masses over the actions of one individual. Please oppose any red flag legislation and any new gun control measures that are up for consideration with the exception of improving of mental health access for folks seeking help.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Regards,

Joseph Cavo Benton, ME. 04901

https://share.newsbreak.com/616nfrai